

No secret deals, Wakeham says

Labour call for enquiry over PowerGen bid

By Philip Webster and Martin Waller

THE government faced Labour demands last night for an independent commission of enquiry into recent privatisations after John Wakeham, the energy secretary, confirmed that the Hanson combine might be paid a fee for its expenses in bidding for PowerGen.

Gordon Brown, the shadow trade and industry secretary, urged that plans for further flotations be dropped until an enquiry had determined the scale of sweeteners and tax concessions involved in the sale of former public assets.

With Conservatives also voicing misgivings over the PowerGen sale, Frank Dobson, the shadow energy secretary, wrote to the prime minister calling for the electricity privatisation to be suspended because of a breach of the understandings on which it went through Parliament.

Kenneth Warren, Conservative chairman of the Commons trade and industry committee, which investigated the Rover sale, said he was unhappy "with anything that can be construed as a sweetener".

Mr Wakeham yesterday emphasised that no official offer had been made by Hanson for the smaller of the two state-owned electricity generating companies. He said, in an interview on *The World This Week*, on BBC radio: "There will be no secret deals, and at this moment there is no deal at all." His remarks

indicated that Hanson could receive a multi-million pound "underwriting fee" for its involvement whatever the outcome.

Reports have suggested it could have expected to have the costs of any initial bid reimbursed. But Mr Wakeham indicated that the money, which sources close to the sale confirm could be £15 million, will be forthcoming even if the Hanson approach is ultimately successful.

"If they just make an offer, leave it on the table and say 'take it or leave it', then there will be no fee," Mr Wakeham added. "It's not for making the offer. It's for leaving it on the table and in effect underwriting the whole tendering process."

He denied Hanson had any special status in the bidding for PowerGen, the country's second biggest electricity generator, but said: "They are the first to come along. Anybody who is first is bound to be different from any others who follow along afterwards."

Martin Taylor, a director of Hanson, confirmed that the company expected some payment for being the stalking horse in the auction for PowerGen. "Underwriting means underwriting, and usually has a fee attached," he said. "We're going to make a bid. We're putting in a lot of effort to do so. Were we not to be successful, we would have effectively been underwriting somebody else's bid," he said.

Mr Wakeham denied Hanson was getting special treatment and said it was still possible PowerGen would be floated on the Stock Exchange.

For a private bid for PowerGen to be acceptable, he would have to be shown it would bring "significantly more money" than public flotation, and create a better chance of success for the privatisation of the electricity industry as a whole. "I don't see how I could refuse to look at an offer for it," he said.

John Cunningham, Labour's campaign co-ordinator, said last night: "Clearly someone in government approached Lord Hanson and asked if he was willing to take it off their hands. It seems he is getting a fee for acting as a stalking-horse to get the price up. My feeling is

that a deal has been done in principle. Since Lord Hanson is close to the prime minister and a major contributor to Conservative funds this gives cause for concern."

Mr Warren said of Lord Hanson: "If he has got £1.5 billion, then I don't think he needs a 1 per cent discount. I think the 1 per cent, if it is £15 million, would be spent by all the top brass in his company and the government and the EC arguing about whether or not it was a subsidy."

Mr Brown said the Conservative party should repay donations from companies interested in privatised assets. Accusations of "sleaze" engulf the Tory flagship policy of privatisation, he said.

"After the Rover and Hanson affairs clear new rules must be drawn up and issued to end the scandals of sweeteners, tax concessions and secret deals that are now swamping current sell-offs."

He said that an enquiry should be established with a remit to investigate how many recent privatisations have involved sweeteners and tax concessions, to outlaw "these shady underhand deals" and to recommend new guidelines.

"These new rules should not only ban the offer of sweeteners to bidding companies but also ban any Conservative party benefits from companies bidding for privatised assets. My fear is that the current scandal over Rover and Hanson sweeteners is merely the tip of the iceberg in a web of private deals and behind-closed-doors agreements of further privatisation."

"Given all the doubts over the government's policy I also want an assurance from Tory chairman Kenneth Baker that he is above suspicion and to be seen to be above suspicion he will send back the recent £80,000 in cheques paid by Lord Hanson's companies to the Conservative party and any other cheques paid by companies interested in privatised assets."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said the government's behaviour over PowerGen looked increasingly questionable.



End of a ten-hour ordeal: a suspect being led away by police after the Piccadilly nightclub siege yesterday

Motives of club gunman unclear

By Quentin Cowdry and Arthur Leathley

POLICE were still trying to discover last night why a gunman took over a London nightclub and threatened to kill more than 100 hostages.

During the ten-hour siege the man repeatedly threatened to blow up the club called Tokyo Joe, in Clarges Street, near Piccadilly, a venue popular with Arab businessmen. However, after intensive negotiations by police he gave himself up. None of the hostages was hurt.

The gunman, who spoke in Arabic and English, said that some of his relatives were being held hostage in the Lebanon. He demanded that police provide a bus and plane to take him and 59 of his Arab hostages to Beirut.

After bursting into the basement club in the early hours of yesterday morning, armed with a rifle, shotgun and bayonet, the man segregated the Arab customers, saying that he did not want to harm the Europeans present. Hostages spoke of him drinking during the siege.

Police, who ringed the club with marksmen, negotiated the release of about 40 hostages. Others slipped away during the night when the gunman's attention was distracted. Among those inside were a party of Arabs believed to include a member of the Kuwaiti royal family.

Det Supt Alec Edwards, the incident commander, said that police were perplexed as to the gunman's motives. He believed, however, that the incident had been carefully planned.

Arab visitors' haven, page 2

Chances of panda survival 'dismal'

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

THE director of the World Wide Fund for Nature yesterday backed the assertion of the Duke of Edinburgh, the fund's president, that, despite a huge conservation effort, the chances of survival for the giant panda, the fund's symbol, are "not good".

Charles de Haes said that unless the Chinese government implemented the panda conservation management programme that WWF has helped it to draw up, the animal's future was "dismal".

The programme, which involves planting "bamboo corridors" between the patches of bamboo forest that are home to the surviving pandas, thought to number fewer than 1,000, has been shelved by Peking since the political turmoil after the Tiananmen Square massacre of June last year. Mr de Haes hopes to visit China later this year to persuade the government to carry out the plan.

The panda's fate was raised by the publication yesterday of an internal WWF report criticising the effectiveness of many of the fund's conservation projects in its first 25 years up to 1986, including the spending of £1 million on a panda breeding centre in the province of Sichuan, which John Phillipson, the retired Oxford zoologist who wrote the report, suggests may have been wasted because the centre is virtually unused.

Labour protest, page 2

Ronald Butt, page 10

Trinidad rebels say prime minister will step down

From Jeremy Taylor in Port of Spain and James Bone in Bridgetown, Barbados

BLACK Muslim rebels holding the parliament and broadcasting centre in Trinidad said yesterday they had struck a deal with Arthur Robinson, the captive prime minister, after he was shot in the ankle.

Mr Robinson would step down and there would be an amnesty for members of the radical Muslim sect which has been holding him hostage, if a draft agreement reportedly reached over the weekend between the Trinidad and Tobago government and the rebels' leader, Imam Yasin Abu-Bakr, is ratified.

In an interview with the Caribbean news agency which was broadcast by the National Broadcasting Service in Port of Spain, a spokesman for the Jamaat al-Muslimin group, Balli Abdullah, said that Mr Robinson had signed a statement of resignation and that he and his government had agreed to support the deputy prime minister, Winston Doo-

keran, as an interim leader. A general election would be held within 90 days.

This agreement was being thrashed out at the parliament building in Port of Spain yesterday, with the help of a mediator, Canon Knolly Clark, an Anglican priest. An amnesty, providing a pardon and immunity from prosecution, was expected to be signed later with Imam Abu-Bakr at the television station a mile away, which was still occupied by his supporters. There was no official confirmation of this agreement, however. Dr Carson Charles, the minister of works, said on television yesterday morning that the defence force was in full control but made no reference to any deal with the imam.

Mr Dookeran, an economist of East Indian descent, serves as the minister of planning and mobilisation, assumed the position of acting prime minister after the coup attempt began on Friday.

Mr Abdullah confirmed that Mr Robinson, aged 63, had been shot and that there had been other minor injuries among the hostages. He said that Mr Robinson was "safe and in good spirits". The only serious injury had been to an MP, Leo de Vignes, who had been released earlier. He refused to comment on a report by Mgr Anthony Pantin, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Port of Spain, that Mr Robinson was "safe and in good spirits".

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Leading article, page 11

Mandela rejects plot claim

THE South African government's claim that the country's Communist party is plotting an armed rebellion was denounced yesterday as hysteria by Nelson Mandela, deputy president of the African National Congress.

At the South African Communist Party's first rally in the country for 40 years, Mr Mandela said that the ANC was not a communist party but, as a defender of democracy, it would fight for the right of the SACP to continue to exist.

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INSIDE

Post Office reform call

The 100 biggest company users of the postal service are seeking immediate reforms of the Post Office to halt rising "customer dissatisfaction".

The Mail Users' Association urges that a new independent Postal Authority be set up, and that the Post Office be split into eight independent businesses. Page 2

Banking control

President Gorbachev yesterday issued a decree asserting the pre-eminence of the Soviet Union's state bank, Gosbank, over new banks established by the republics. Page 6

Peking attack

A strongly worded statement from Peking appears to undermine the government's policy of giving Hong Kong people the confidence to stay on after 1997 by allowing them British passports. Page 8

US investment

American congressmen are introducing a number of bills to prevent American concerns being taken over by foreign companies. The moves, which are being opposed by President Bush, include a plan to make every takeover involving "essential technology" subject to scrutiny. Page 21

Senna's victory

Ayrton Senna of Brazil won the West German grand prix at Hockenheim and regained the lead in the Formula One world drivers' championship. Page 33
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Degree results

Degrees from Bradford and Brunel universities are published today. Page 27

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Attack on jobs for former ministers

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

THE Labour Party is planning a campaign on standards in public life after an exchange of letters between Margaret Thatcher and John Cunningham, the shadow leader of the Commons, over ex-ministers taking up positions in firms that they helped to privatise.

The Labour leadership believes that the rules on ministerial and ex-ministerial conduct are inadequate to meet the situation created by the privatisation programme.

Dr Cunningham said in a letter to Mrs Thatcher that "Britain's reputation for integrity in government has been sullied" by the actions of ministers such as Peter Walker, Sir Norman Fowler and Norman Tebbit in taking directorships in businesses that they helped to privatise. Mrs Thatcher has responded

angrily to what she calls "unwarranted attacks on individuals who have performed valuable service in public affairs".

Labour is pressing for the government to extend to former ministers the rules applied to civil servants who leave to take posts in business and industry. They are vetted by a committee chaired by Lord Carlisle. This can call for a delay of up to two years on former Crown servants taking jobs with firms with which they have had dealings in Whitehall or to whom they could offer an advantage by their knowledge of their rivals.

Mrs Thatcher is opposing any change, saying that it would not be appropriate.

Labour protest, page 2
Ronald Butt, page 10

Baker's enemies out hunting for a scandal

From Peter Stothard, US Editor, in Washington



Baker: his departmental enemies sniff his blood

MONGOLIA has taken up much Department of State time over the past few days, less because of the elections there than because James Baker, the Secretary of State, wanted an exotic hunting trip.

The Altai mountain haunts of the Mongolian argali sheep are a mecca for Texan hunters like Mr Baker. No Houston lodge can be considered complete without the argali's 6ft curling horns on its wall. So, when Mr Baker decided to make a 4,500-mile detour on his Asian tour to visit so obscure a country, his departmental enemies, who have for some time believed that he makes too little use of his talents, smell blood — and they wanted to be sure it was Mr Baker's and not the argali's.

The Mongolian government had orig-

inally been happy to have the Baker party hunt its prize goat and was even prepared to waive the \$25,000 (£13,600) killing fee which Texans normally have to pay. But some officials appear to have resented Mr Baker's "two-day hunting trip" at the taxpayer's expense and pointed out the bad publicity which might come from stalking so rare a beast.

They then made sure that the bad publicity came anyway, in the form of a front-page report in *The Washington Post* suggesting that hunting, not diplomacy, was the main motive of the first trip to Mongolia by a US Secretary of State. That left Mr Baker's spokesmen to protest that her boss had no intention of taking goats from any endangered list and would be hunting only those which were "as common as deer in Alabama".

Hurriedly briefing reporters on a bus from Mr Baker's hotel to Jakarta airport

as he prepared to fly to Singapore, Margaret Tutwiler added: "He has never under any circumstances considered killing an argali sheep. That is a 100 per cent complete fabrication."

The visit to the Altai mountains was dropped days ago, she said. Mr and Mrs Baker would be travelling with their retinue to the southern Gobi desert at their own expense, she said, but if Mr Baker decided to hunt in Mongolia — no one denies that he flew to Asia with his rifle — it would be for ordinary goats.

Mr Baker, like President Bush, is a passionate hunter. Reporters who travel with him often tease him about his enthusiasm for killing game. On a trip to Africa he once told reporters how he had bought a licence to kill an elephant. When he had the beast in his sights, however, he could not pull the trigger.

Election photograph, page 6

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Labour demands action on 'cabinet to companies' switch

LABOUR is to press the prime minister to impose restrictions on the taking up of business appointments by ex-ministers after recent cases in which her former colleagues have joined the boards of companies which they helped to privatise.

Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, believes that the privatisation programme has invalidated the existing rules on such appointments and that the standards of public life are threatened.

With Mr Kinnock's support, John Cunningham, the shadow leader of the Commons, has written to the prime minister calling for the guidelines which restrict immediate movement into private sector firms by senior civil servants to be applied to ministers as well. Mrs Thatcher has refused to make that change, saying that privatisation has not raised any new issues. In a reply to Dr Cunningham she accuses him of making "unwarranted attacks on the integrity of individuals who have performed valuable service in public affairs".

There are three cases which have exercised Labour in particular:

□ Peter Walker, the one-time energy secretary, who privatised British Gas, took a non-executive directorship with the company within months of leaving the

Cabinet. □ Sir Norman Fowler, who privatised National Freight during his time as transport secretary, joined the company after leaving the Cabinet earlier this year. □ Norman Tebbit, a one-time industry secretary, who assisted in the privatisation of British Telecom, became a non-executive director of Telecom after leaving the government in 1987.

Mrs Thatcher said last month that it was beneficial to the country that men of experience should be available to industry and commerce on leaving the government. Her words echoed the memorandum on ministers' private interests set out in 1975 by the then cabinet secretary, Lord Hunt, for the Royal Commission on Standards of Conduct in Public Life.

In his letter Dr Cunningham says that the precedents set out by Lord Hunt are not relevant to former ministers taking up positions in newly privatised companies for whose legal existence they bore government responsibility. The Hunt precedents involved only firms with "contractual" or "administrative" relations with a government department.

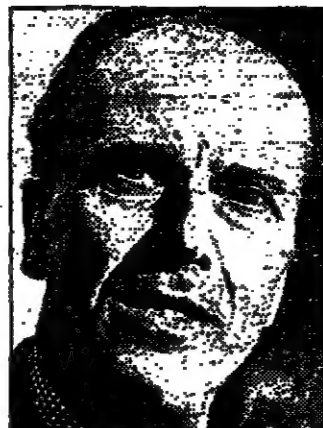
His letter says: "In the case of your former ministers, the relationship between them and



Walker: job with British Gas which he privatised



Sir Norman: joined freight firm after quitting cabinet



Tebbit: industry secretary and then Telecom director

the companies which now pay them was far more substantial. These former ministers took responsibility in cabinet and in parliament for the entirety of the creation, legal existence, financial status and trading position of these companies. Those responsibilities far exceed anything that could fairly be described as 'administrative relations'." It adds: "That responsibility was unique to the process of privatisation. It could not have been anticipated by your predecessors in determining their guidelines, nor in 1975 by Lord Hunt in codifying them." Lord

Hunt's memo adds, in what Labour sees as a key passage, that ministers should ensure "that no conflict arises between their public duties and their foreseeable private interests on leaving office."

Dr Cunningham's letter says: "Events have demonstrated the difficulty of accepting that these former ministers, while in office, could not foresee the possibility of taking up financially remunerative directorships in the companies for whose privatisation they bore responsibility. That is why I believe that, in the case of these former ministers of

Dr Cunningham said last night of the prime minister's letter: "She has missed the point. She says there is no difference between other cases and ministers joining privatised firms. But there is a qualitative and quantitative difference. There is a qualitative difference because these ministers conceived, pursued through parliament and enacted legislation to privatise the firms from which some of them have, with alacrity, become substantial beneficiaries. There is a quantitative difference because the taking up of directorships by ex-ministers is happening on a scale which we have not seen in the past."

He plans to discuss the prime minister's response with front bench colleagues and put recommendations to the shadow cabinet. There will be more exchanges with Downing Street and Labour may stage a Commons debate in the autumn on standards in public life.

Cases involving senior officials, who must wait a minimum of three months before taking private sector appointments, are referred to an advisory committee on business appointments, now headed by Lord Carlisle of Bucklebury. Of fewer than 40 applications last year two thirds were approved unconditionally. In 1989 a total

of 990 civil servants sought permission to take up jobs outside Whitehall, including 93 in senior positions. Of the total, 246 had their applications referred to the Cabinet Office and 39 were referred to the advisory committee. One application was withdrawn. 24 were approved unconditionally and 14 were approved subject to conditions, although none was delayed for the maximum two years.

The rules on acceptance of outside business appointments by Crown servants say that it is in the public interest for people with experience of public administration to be able to move into business and industry and that such movement should not be frustrated by public concern over a particular appointment.

The guidance states that the rules aim at avoiding "any suspicion - however unjustified - that serving officials might be ready to bestow favours on firms in the hope of future benefits to come".

They also seek to guard against the risk that a firm might be thought to gain advantage over competitors by employing an ex-civil servant who had had access to technical or other information which those competitors could regard as their own trade secrets.

ROBIN OAKLEY
Political Editor

Dissatisfied users urge reform of Post Office

By DAVID YOUNG

THE 100 companies that are the biggest users of the postal service are seeking urgent reforms of the Post Office to halt a "rising tide of customer dissatisfaction".

The Mail Users' Association, founded in 1975 to represent the biggest users, has proposed that an independent postal authority be set up to "allow this vital public service to escape the Treasury strait-jacket". The association claims that government-set financial targets have forced up the price of postal services.

The association wants the Post Office to be split into eight independent businesses, responsible for different aspects of the service, such as delivery, collection and transport.

In a statement, the association said: "For well over a decade, the British Post Office has been profitable and its business has been growing rapidly. Normally, this would indicate a successful business with satisfied customers."

"But in reality the opposite is nearer the truth. There is a rising tide of customer dissatisfaction with the quality of service provided by the monopoly-protected domestic letters business."

The association says that financial targets imposed by the Treasury are behind the 2p price rise for first-class and second-class stamps due on September 17. Proposed increases in international postal charges at the same time are unjustifiable, it says.

The authority suggested by the association would be a regulatory body for the eight new companies and would agree price levels and supervise standards. It wants its proposed structural changes to be implemented within 12 months to create a "new playing field on which the customer is king".

The association has also proposed halving the September price rises to 1p and introducing a customer compensation scheme for service failure.

A Post Office spokesman said that the association was speaking on behalf of a relatively small proportion of business customers with special but important needs. The Royal Mail had an obligation to deliver to everyone. It was essential to keep a cohesive

network for the delivery of 58 million letters a day to 24 million addresses.

The spokesman added: "The MUA has come up with a pot-pourri of proposals with Alice in Wonderland timescales. What they are proposing would involve massively disruptive re-organisation on a wholly unrealistic timescale, and this would seriously jeopardise service to customers, just at the moment when quality of service is showing a strong upward swing."

The report comes less than a month after the Post Office Users' National Council reported a record number of complaints against the Post Office last year.



Digging in: The McGarrett All Stars dragonboat team racing away in the weekend Westminster Regatta on the Serpentine in Hyde Park

Offer by Liberal Democrats of Liverpool coalition

By RONALD FAUX

THE Liberal Democrats in Liverpool city council will today present their plan for steering the city out of serious financial difficulty by offering to form a coalition with moderate Labour councillors.

A 13-point formula drawn up by the group aims at achieving a substantial improvement in productivity from the 30,000-strong council workforce and to halt the Labour administration's policy of selling off council assets. They would then support a £3 a week rise in council house rents, which they joined with hard-left Labour councillors in blocking when the issue last came before the council.

Paul Clark, leader of the Liberal Democrats, said: "At that stage it was a panic measure unrelated to any other action that would have helped the city."

Labour initially rejected the Liberal Democrats' plan but with 29 Labour councillors under suspension for refusing to set a community charge or increase council rents, Harry Rimmer, the council leader, may have difficulty in raising enough support to push through the measures moderates believe are needed if the council is to balance the

books. Keva Coombes, former Labour leader of Liverpool, has said he regrets using "extraneous language" when he told a Sunday newspaper that his administration had "fiddled the figures" to show that a council tendering for a council contract could not do the job they claimed they were going to do. Mr Coombes was reported as saying: "This provided a specious justification for us awarding the contracts to our own grounds maintenance department. It was all a lie."

He said yesterday: "I am afraid that was over the top and distorted what I wanted to say. We made a wrong decision but I don't think people were acting other than honestly."

● A report from Pamela Gordon, the chief executive of the Labour-controlled Sheffield council, admits it is being badly managed and calls for sweeping changes to improve management skills at all levels.

The report, which will go before the policy committee tomorrow, says: "There are at present serious weaknesses in the way the authority's management operates both at strategic and corporate levels."

British chess pair to play each other

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

THE only two British representatives in the candidates' tournament to qualify for the 1993 world championship chess match are pitted against each other in the first round of the knockout competition.

The matching of Nigel Short and Jon Speelman in the draw announced by the World Chess Federation is a remarkable echo of the previous series in 1988. On that occasion the pair were also in the lists, were initially paired against foreign grandmasters but were suddenly switched by the authorities so that they had to play each other.

This time, it seems barely credible when Britain is the only nation in the competition apart from the Soviet Union to have more than one representative at this advanced stage, that the two competitors should be obliged to face each other at such an early stage. One is bound to be eliminated. Last time, it was Short. British chess fans will be deeply disappointed that the World Chess Federation has repeated this unfortunate draw.

Meanwhile, the British Chess Championship starts today in Eastbourne. This year it is a particularly strong competition, with ten British grandmasters competing.

Watchdog accuses BR of missing quality targets

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail is bracing itself for one of the most damning indictments published by the Central Transport Consultative Committee, the statutory body responsible for monitoring rail services.

In a report to be published tomorrow, Major General Lennox Napier, the committee chairman, will accuse British Rail of failing "almost without exception" to meet its quality of service targets,

which had included an improvement in train punctuality, reduced overcrowding, prompt service at ticket counters, and reduced cancellations.

The report's unprecedented criticisms, which are based on a 50 per cent increase in the number of passenger complaints received by the committee during the past 12 months, will come as an embarrassment to Sir Robert

Reid, British Rail's recently appointed £200,000 a year chairman.

It is understood the report singles out a series of shortcomings, such as the cancellation of more than 250 trains a day, and the general decline in InterCity punctuality.

The closure of 12 travel centres in London and the southeast, which has led to longer queues at ticket counters, is also criticised. The closure of the Charing Cross travel centre is condemned as being particularly shortsighted.

The report is expected to attribute the overall decline in rail services to British Rail's determination to meet government-imposed financial targets. A critical spotlight could also fall on plans by Cecil Parkinson, the transport secretary, to eliminate all subsidy for Network SouthEast by 1992 and to reduce the level of subsidy for loss-making rural services to £345 million.

Mr Parkinson is expected to play down the significance of the report by drawing attention to British Rail's record capital investment programme, which will lead to substantial improvements in rolling stock, journey times and levels of comfort throughout the network.

Scottish paper defies ban on palace book

EXTRACTS from the book *Courting Disaster*, banned from publication by the High Court on Friday, were published by a Scottish newspaper yesterday on the ground that the court had no jurisdiction north of the border (Kerry Gill writes).

The book, written by Malcolm Barker, a former Buckingham Palace aide, gives details of life in the royal household. Sitting in private, Mr Justice Wright issued an injunction to the Attorney-General on behalf of the Queen stopping Mr Barker from allowing publication of his

book anywhere in the world. Yesterday, *Scotland on Sunday* ran a front-page story on the ban and inserted a number of anecdotes from the book after telling its readers that the ban had no effect in Scotland.

The judge delayed the ban on publication outside Britain until 4.30pm today, pending consideration of an appeal.

The newspaper reprinted extracts from the magazine *Paris Match* which have been removed from copies available in Britain.

Buckingham Palace declined to comment on the publication.



Nigel Lacey refereeing a paintball game yesterday in Effingham Forest, Surrey

War for fun and profit in the woods

By DANIEL TREISMAN

TWO gunmen in camouflage suits crashed through the undergrowth of Effingham Forest, Surrey, as projectiles whizz through the birch and chestnut trees. A man in a yellow T-shirt watched coolly.

Nigel Lacey has witnessed woodland warfare most weekends for the past five years. He is one of Britain's longest-serving umpires in the fast-growing sport of paintball, in which teams compete to capture the flag from their opponents' base without being "killed" by a dye pellet from a rival's gas-powered gun.

The game has mushroomed since it was first played nine years ago in the United States. There are now about 400 sites in Britain, according to Harry Mattacott, editor of *Paintball Monthly*, with 38,000 players competing each weekend.

"Even a veteran like Mr

Lacey might feel a little nervous this week, however. Six days before, Peter Thompson, a referee on another operator's site, ended up with a fractured skull after a dispute. Police are still trying to identify his attacker. Paintball operators are outraged.

Mr Lacey said: "I hope they catch him and I hope they lock him up." Mr Mattacott added: "As far as that guy's concerned, he's paintball history."

The assault threatens to tarnish the game's image just as practitioners were trying to shake off paramilitary connotations and establish paintball as a respected international sport.

"We do not claim that we have just got Sunday school teachers playing," said Stewart Wall, editor of *Paintball Adventure*. "Arguments do flare up. But this is the first

time something like that has happened."

Figures from the United States, where an estimated 675,000 people a year play, show an injury rate a third that of tennis and a seventieth that of basketball.

No physical contact is allowed. "Think of rugby," Mr Lacey says. "You don't get people with dislocated shoulders, broken arms and stud marks on their faces." In an effort to lighten the mood, one company running games makes teams capture not flags, but 6ft plastic bananas.

Players include dustmen, plumbers, policemen, dentists and stockbrokers. Up to 15 per cent are women. Corporate bookings are the bread and butter of the industry, with companies paying about £35 a person to see how employees cope with stress or to reward

successful sales teams. The atmosphere remained sporting as two bridegroom's stag parties competed at Mr Lacey's Effingham site on Saturday. The former soldier, with 14 years in the regulars and reserves, rarely runs into discipline or safety problems.

Armed with .68 calibre S&W pistols, players hear an extensive safety briefing and put on plastic visors before heading into the forest, where pellets containing non-toxic, biodegradable dye soon whizz from the guns.

John Rodgers, aged 28, a market researcher who is to be married in two weeks' time, said: "My best mate came up with this idea. We are all kids at heart, so it appealed."

It also taught a few quick lessons in the reality of war. "I don't want to be a hero after that," Mr Rodgers said.

Remand for man on arms plot charges

A MAN alleged to have been the skipper of the IRA gun-running coaster *Eksund* was yesterday remanded in custody by the anti-terrorist Special Criminal Court in Dublin.

Adrian Hopkins, aged 51, faces charges of unlawful possession of explosives; having guns and explosives with intent to endanger life; and illegally importing firearms into the Irish Republic at Clonsilla Beach, near Arklow, on Wicklow, between December 1984 and January 1987. He is also accused of conspiring with four others to illegally import arms into the Irish Republic on October 30, 1987.

Mr Hopkins, a businessman from Bray, on Wicklow, was arrested by Irish police in Limerick on Thursday after failing to meet bail conditions imposed by the French authorities.

He had been in French custody since 1987 after the arrest of the *Britannia* coast of the *Eksund*, with its 150-tonne IRA arms consignment from Libya. The French said that they would not seek his extradition in connection with the *Eksund* seizure.

● The dates and locations of some NATO military exercises in West Germany have had to be changed because of a car theft in Belfast.

The army's Northern Ireland headquarters have confirmed that files on some planned British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) exercises were in a car stolen from a city centre car park last Tuesday. The vehicle belonged to a Territorial Army NCO and was later recovered with the sensitive files missing.

The fifth battalion of the Royal Irish Rangers, a territorial unit, had been due to travel to West Germany for its annual summer camp, to exercise with regular units of BAOR and other NATO forces.

Party swindle

Confidence tricksters who swindled up to £160,000 from Acid House revellers who paid £16 each for a non-existent party are being hunted by police who turned away scores of teenagers at road blocks near the village of Newdigate, near Dorking, Surrey, on Sunday night. Police seized tickets being sold in London, Sussex and Hampshire to the "party", called New World Genesis Mass Field Festival.

Video crime

A project to produce a video cassette to crime and antisocial behaviour was launched yesterday by public services in who have formed an organisation called Communitycern. It plans to make it on protecting children, bogus social workers, women motorists who break down, civic pride, prevention, under-age drinking and driver retraining.

Muggeridge ill

Malcolm Muggeridge, 87, the veteran broadcaster, was said to be in a "stable" condition last night in hospital, where staff confirmed he was recovering from a stroke. He is being treated at Helen's Hospital, Haslemere, Surrey, where he is admitted on Friday night as falling ill.

Notes: The Times crossword: 1. 10 letters, 2nd letter E, 3rd letter S, 4th letter A, 5th letter N, 6th letter G, 7th letter I, 8th letter N, 9th letter G, 10th letter E. 2. 10 letters, 1st letter T, 2nd letter H, 3rd letter I, 4th letter S, 5th letter S, 6th letter I, 7th letter N, 8th letter G, 9th letter I, 10th letter N. 3. 10 letters, 1st letter S, 2nd letter H, 3rd letter I, 4th letter S, 5th letter S, 6th letter I, 7th letter N, 8th letter G, 9th letter I, 10th letter N. 4. 10 letters, 1st letter S, 2nd letter H, 3rd letter I, 4th letter S, 5th letter S, 6th letter I, 7th letter N, 8th letter G, 9th letter I, 10th letter N. 5. 10 letters, 1st letter S, 2nd letter H, 3rd letter I, 4th letter S, 5th letter S, 6th letter I, 7th letter N, 8th letter G, 9th letter I, 10th letter N. 6. 10 letters, 1st letter S, 2nd letter H, 3rd letter I, 4th letter S, 5th letter S, 6th letter I, 7th letter N, 8th letter G, 9th letter I, 10th letter N. 7. 10 letters, 1st letter S, 2nd letter H, 3rd letter I, 4th letter S, 5th letter S, 6th letter I, 7th letter N, 8th letter G, 9th letter I, 10th letter N. 8. 10 letters, 1st letter S, 2nd letter H, 3rd letter I, 4th letter S, 5th letter S, 6th letter I, 7th letter N, 8th letter G, 9th letter I, 10th letter N. 9. 10 letters, 1st letter S, 2nd letter H, 3rd letter I, 4th letter S, 5th letter S, 6th letter I, 7th letter N, 8th letter G, 9th letter I, 10th letter N. 10. 10 letters, 1st letter S, 2nd letter H, 3rd letter I, 4th letter S, 5th letter S, 6th letter I, 7th letter N, 8th letter G, 9th letter I, 10th letter N.

£1m wildlife fund plan to save panda attacked as 'waste'

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) released a hitherto secret internal report yesterday which questions the effectiveness of many of the international conservation projects pursued by the fund over its first 25 years from 1961 to 1986. In particular, the report suggests that £1 million spent in China to help save the giant panda, the WWF symbol, has been a waste of money.

Charles de Haes, director of WWF International, said at a press conference in London yesterday that the criticisms had been incorporated in a new management strategy. However, in an announcement that will dismay many conservationists, he said that he agreed with the Duke of Edinburgh, the international president of WWF, who was quoted yesterday as saying that the chances of the panda surviving are not good.

The report, by John Phillipson, a retired Oxford zoologist, was commissioned by WWF to help redefine its aims for the 1990s, and was asked for and all. However, the unexpectedly harsh nature of Dr Phillipson's criticisms on the supervision, reporting, administration and financial accountability of many projects in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe sent a shockwave throughout the organisation. Only 73 per cent of the projects examined

could be considered a success, Dr Phillipson reported.

The report was delivered last September after an 18-month investigation and was never intended for publication. However, the fund was forced to release it to forestall allegations of a cover-up, after a Sunday newspaper published a private memo about it from the Duke of Edinburgh to Mr de Haes. The report is also expected to feature strongly in a scrutiny of WWF by *The Cook Report*, Central Television's investigative series by the journalist Roger Cook, to be broadcast tonight.

In an increasingly bitter dispute, the fund has complained to the Independent Broadcasting Authority about the way the research for the programme has been carried out, alleging that the television crew used subterfuge to obtain film reports. Buckingham Palace says that the Duke of Edinburgh associates himself with the complaint. The IBA is to monitor the programme before it is broadcast.

Mr Cook refused all comment yesterday on the programme's contents or its research methods. The fund, on the other hand, anticipated the programme's criticisms, released the summary of Dr Phillipson's report as well as the WWF "Mission for the 90s", a strategy to bring local people more closely into WWF projects and to adopt a

more holistic approach to conservation in preference to the earlier concentration on "saving large fluffy animals".

Dr Phillipson said yesterday that he was certain the fund's new strategy was putting right the weaknesses he had diagnosed, such as research projects that were too esoteric and of little eventual use to the countries where they were carried out, and a tendency for project reporting to be too self-congratulatory.

He accepted that the language of his report had been hard-hitting, and agreed that he had toned down the concluding paragraph of his summary at the request of the Duke of Edinburgh and other senior WWF officials, who felt that its reference to financial accountability being "non-existent", which was directed at projects in the field, could be taken to refer to the financial situation at WWF International headquarters in Switzerland and at the 28 national headquarters which handle millions of pounds of charitable income.

As only the summary of Dr Phillipson's report was released yesterday no detail was given on the individual projects which he and his four-man team evaluated. However, Mr de Haes gave details of the panda project criticised in the report: a breeding station and research centre in Wolong in the province of Szechuan. The Chinese had insisted on it when WWF involvement with panda conservation began in 1981. Mr de Haes said, although a number of senior fund officials, including himself, had had doubts about its usefulness. Dr Phillipson found the centre to be unused and performing no useful role.

The threat to the panda, Mr de Haes said, was not from the failure of the centre, but from the failure of the Chinese government to implement the conservation management plan for pandas that WWF had helped them draw up, which would link the isolated patches of bamboo forest where the 1,000 or so remaining pandas live by planting bamboo "corridors". The plan seemed to have been shelved since the political turmoil following the massacre in Peking last year, he said: if it was not carried out, the panda faced a dismal future.

Leading article, page 11



Dr Phillipson, retired zoologist, whose "warts and all" internal report roundly criticised the WWF

Building societies defend housing figures' accuracy

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

BUILDING society statistics on house prices are neither out of date nor misleading, two leading societies have said.

The Halifax and Nationwide Anglia say that their figures give the best picture of the housing market and include financial statistics as well as reports from their own estate agency chains.

David Mitchell, of agents Drewett Neate, of Newbury, Berkshire, with 14 offices, has taken issue with a claim by Nationwide Anglia that first-time buyers were returning to the market.

"The fact that first-time buyers were active in January and February was largely due to building societies with estate agents branches issuing press releases forecasting that

prices would go up in 1990," Mr Mitchell said. "But the first-time buyer vanished at the end of February and has hardly been seen since. There will be no meaningful return until interest rates fall a minimum of 1 per cent and the mortgage is confident there will be no further increase for at least 12 months."

Mr Mitchell said that building societies might be frightened to admit how bad the fall in prices had been, perhaps because it might unsettle the societies' members as the fall in values might have left some loans exposed. He said yesterday he believed that the interpretation of house price figures by building societies was misleading and contradicted what agents were find-

ing out each day. Gary Marsh, of the Halifax, admitted that the market had been strange: active in January and February and flat since then, when usually spring sees a revival. He insisted, however, that the society's figures were accurate and up to date. "We might be a few days behind, but because we cover the country, ours is the best cross-section picture of the market."

Nationwide Anglia also said that its statistics were based on approved prices, and were the most accurate.

Meanwhile, a survey by the Adams residential property index shows that the house transactions in the first six months of the year, at 675,000, were 9 per cent down on the same period last year.



Veteran in action: Charles Godfrey, from Brize Norton, riding his 1904 314cc Ariel in the Sunbeam Motorcycle Club's Garden of England run for veteran and vintage machines. The run took the riders around the hills of Kent from Beltring yesterday

New archbishop praised by colleagues as man not afraid to speak his mind

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

SENIOR figures in the Church of England, still recovering from their surprise at the announcement of their new Archbishop of Canterbury, are coming to terms with the outspokenness of Dr George Carey, Bishop of Bath and Wells.

While some churchmen at the grassroots expressed doubts at his volubility so soon after he was designated to succeed Dr Robert Runcie, fellow bishops praised his ability to "speak his mind".

One bishop was slightly concerned that Dr Carey is being courted as though he were already resident at Lambeth Palace, six months before Dr Runcie steps down.

Dr Carey told BBC Radio 4's *Sunday programme*: "I hope I will not be seen as a tough leader. I want to unify our church and lead it into the decade of evangelism."

He said he could be described as a charismatic only in the sense "that I am open to the Holy Spirit in all his power and from whatever direction it comes. I have never labelled myself a charismatic." He spoke forcefully

on the resurrection. "I believe that the physical resurrection is at the very heart of New Testament faith."

On Saturday, Dr Carey criticised those who claimed the church was declining. In his first public address since his appointment, he said the church was fit and ready to meet the challenges of the 1990s.

"The church is not in a terminal state of decline and death, that is absolute rubbish. Only people who know very little of it make statements like



Hardy: "New leader will not provoke conflict"

that," he told a conference organised by the Lincoln diocese at Swanwick, Derbyshire. Dr Carey also said he would like to see the church described as a movement.

"The word church seems so static. It represents in many people's minds a church building. The idea of a movement, the Jesus movement, is much more dynamic."

Dr Carey will continue to attend meetings of a small group of bishops from different traditions within the Church of England. The group is one of several bishops' "cells" which have formed within the church and meet regularly to pray and provide "mutual self-help".

Dr Carey's group consists of mostly young and newly-appointed bishops. It was started on the initiative of the Right Rev Richard Harries, aged 54, bishop of Oxford and the Right Rev Robert Hardy, aged 53, bishop of Lincoln.

Bishop Hardy said yesterday that Dr Carey is "open and appreciative of other people's traditions". Any future conflict in the church "would not be of Dr Carey's making".

'Sex ring' children placed in safe house

By KERRY GILL

A SCOTTISH social work department has taken the unprecedented step of removing three children from their parents and placing them in a safe house after the children made allegations of being involved in a satanic sex ring. It is the first case of alleged child abuse with sacrificial overtones that has come to the notice of Strathclyde region's social workers. The region is further investigating reports that group sexual intercourse took place between adults and a number of other children.

David Laing, the social work convener, confirmed yesterday that the children were in a safe house. The use of such a house is previously unknown in the region, the biggest in Scotland. Other children have been taken into care as a result of the claims.

Mr Laing said that the three children, all under the age of 16, had made the allegations to social workers. The case is being investigated by the department, under its director, Professor Fred Edwards, and Strathclyde police.

"I can say that we are investigating allegations of ritual abuse and there is a suspicion of satanic practices. Our procedure is to act first in the interests of the safety of the children pending an investigation," Mr Laing said. He added that the children were removed from their parents during the past few weeks.

Mr Laing said that the department had broad powers under the Social Work (Scotland) Act enabling it to remove children from their family home if they were believed to be under serious threat from abuse.

There has been a marked increase in child abuse cases in Strathclyde over the past ten years, although the authorities emphasise that this is largely due to increased publicity and the willingness for people to come forward with evidence. There were 290 children being treated for sexual abuse at the end of last year compared with 32 in 1981.

Last year the region dealt with 5,836 cases of alleged abuse against children, of which 1,530 were of a sexual nature.

'Computer' pictures in child hunt

POLICE are using computer-enhanced photographs as part of their investigation into the disappearance of up to 20 boys who it is feared may have been abducted and murdered (David Young writes).

The photographs, based on the last known picture taken of the missing children, are altered to show what the child should now look like. The technique has enabled police to show how seven-year-olds might look in their early teens and could be valuable in determining whether some of the boys reported missing over the past seven years have started new lives or been victims of a paedophile ring now being investigated.

A special police squad set up in east London is constantly receiving calls in connection with missing children they are investigating since a telephone line was set up last week. A prisoner has given information that at least six boys may have been murdered and their remains disposed of in the London area.

AGENDA

The week ahead

Today
The YMCA/BBC Best of Britain Youth Awards will be presented at the Savoy Hotel in London. Mensa opens its first summer school at Sibford, near Banbury. The Queen Mother will attend a birthday yacht review at Portsmouth.

Tomorrow
The Milk Marketing Board holds its annual meeting at the Queen Elizabeth II conference centre in Westminster and the Central Transport Consultative Committee issues its annual report. The latest CBI industrial trends survey is released.

Wednesday
The defence ministry announces more details of where its spending cuts will fall. St Dunstan's celebrates its 75th anniversary at Buckingham Palace with Princess Alexandra. The Queen Mother receives wartime memories with a walkabout in Docklands and the East End.

Thursday
The Commons environment committee reports on the environment department's administration of its property holdings. The Country Landowners' Association Game Fair opens at Port Talbot. The BBC announces its plans for television drama. Guinness identifies the best pubs in Britain.

Friday
The British Transplant Games start at Crystal Palace for competitors who have had spare parts fitted.

Saturday
The Queen Mother's 90th birthday, much celebrated already, falls today.

Fears over 176mph saloon car

AN EXECUTIVE car said to be capable of 176mph has been criticised by police and safety organisations.

The Vauxhall Carlton Lotus, to be launched at the Birmingham Motorshow in September, is expected to cost £40,000 and would be the fastest saloon car in Britain.

Peter Joslin, chairman of the Association of Chief Police Officers and Chief Constable of Warwickshire, said he could not understand the thinking behind the production of such a car. "In France they are talking about limiting the performance of cars to 100mph in the interests of road safety and that would be very sensible."

"My great worry is if these sort of cars are stolen and fall into the hands of inexperienced drivers. A particular problem of young people taking high-performance cars has already been identified."

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents said it feared the car could become a hazard. "We would question the responsibility of making cars capable of very high performance because speed is a factor in many fatal accidents every year."

The car would be so fast that a motorist driving at 60mph on a motorway could look in his mirror to see the Carlton Lotus half a mile away, pull out and have the vehicle on his bumper in 15 seconds. Paul Toech, chairman of Vauxhall, has said the car reached 176mph in testing.

Last night Vauxhall said that engineers might be instructed to slow the car before it goes on sale. "We are reviewing the situation," the company said. "We are aware of the criticism we are likely to suffer if it is brought to the market with the sort of performance which has been speculated about."

The Toyko Joe's siege

Gunman faces charge after death threats to 100 hostages at club

By QUENTIN COWDRY AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

A MAN armed with a rifle and shotgun and threatening to set off explosives held about 100 people hostage during a ten-hour siege yesterday at a nightclub in the West End of London before giving himself up.

In a siege which veered at times between high drama and farce the gunman threatened to blow the club up unless police laid on a bus and plane to take him and 59 Arab hostages to Beirut. In between making the death threats the gunman, who claimed to have relatives held hostage in the Lebanon, drank whisky and smoked cigars.

Last night, as police prepared to charge the gunman, there was still confusion over his motives. One theory, however, was that the man, who claimed to be Lebanese, but told police he was Syrian, wanted to barter the release of hostages held in Beirut.

During the siege at Tokyo Joe's nightclub, off Piccadilly, he made it clear he did not want to harm any Europeans.

The siege ended just after noon yesterday after police negotiators had successfully

talked him into releasing about 45 hostages, leaving just six inside the building. Another 40, including, it is thought, a member of the Kuwaiti royal family, escaped.

The siege began at around 1.30am when the man burst into the crowded club, fired a shot into the ceiling and screamed out that he had enough explosives strapped to

him to blow the club up. He was brandishing a .303 rifle, a 12-bore shotgun, a bayonet and holding what he said was a remote control device.

Shortly afterwards police arrived and ringed the club, set in a basement in Clarges Street near the Ritz hotel, with armed police. Negotiations, initially conducted by megaphone, began a few minutes

later. Ianthe Leslie, aged 24, a New Zealander who was in the club at the time, said that everyone covered for safety when he first stormed in. "But as the evening wore we became more relaxed."

Christina Broderick, aged 20, from Birmingham, said: "He said he was Lebanese, with an English wife and three children." She ran to safety

after he had fallen over and cut his leg on a broken bottle.

Antonia Roberts, aged 20, a receptionist, said: "I saw a woman running and shouting 'Get out of the way'. The next thing was this chubby man with short dark hair came running in with a rifle, shouting, 'I'm from Beirut' and 'my brother is a hostage in Beirut'." Police described the

man's "explosives" as a "highly sophisticated hoax". Hostages spoke of him holding a remote control device, with an aerial attached, and wearing a wide belt containing what appeared to be sticks of explosive.

The club's manager, Hrad Darian, was standing at the front door when the gunman arrived, threatening to shoot

him. "He was totally frenzied and psyched up. He had two guns and was pointing them at me and telling me to get out but I paid him no attention," he said.

Other customers spoke of how fanatical the intruder seemed. "He kept reciting verses from the Koran and saying he wanted to write a book about Middle Eastern

politics, particularly as it related to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia," said a woman, a Baghdad hotel owner, said. "I got the feeling he wanted some sort of fame, he wanted to be popular."

The gunman had told Mr Korkes that he had walked from Edgware Road to the club carrying the apparent explosives in a plastic bag with the guns hanging over his shoulder.

Peter Antonello, one of the club's barman who lives in Streatham, south London, said: "He said, 'God needs me to do it. I don't care if I burn myself up'. It was more like a boosted up child's game, like cowboys and Indians."

Other customers spoke of the hysteria which erupted when the gunman first appeared. But several hostages afterwards described how the mood changed as the morning wore on and the gunman became calmer.

He first told detectives that they had just ten minutes to agree to provide him with transport to Beirut, but the deadline was extended as the siege went on. Police sent in food for the gunman, including at one stage salmon sandwiches.

Negotiators used classic ploy

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE peaceful conclusion of the siege at Tokyo Joe's nightclub in the West End of London represents one of the more conspicuous successes of the tactics police have evolved over the years to deal with hostage taking.

From the accounts given by the hostages, the handful of trained negotiators used the classic ploy of playing for time on the gunman's main demands, while granting, at strategic intervals, minor requests such as for food. Negotiations were conducted initially by megaphone. The gunman, sitting near the bar with four women in front of him, shouted his demands to an officer about 20 yards away just out of sight at the bottom of the fire escape. Later discussions took place by telephone.

European women were freed first followed by Arabic women and then, as the siege drew to an end, by a number of Arab men. During the night about 40 hostages escaped, mainly in

small groups, when the gunman's attention was distracted. Eyewitnesses said the police negotiators constantly sought to reassure the hostage-taker, whose mood alternated sharply from relative good humour to aggression. They never ruled out any of his demands, including his call for a bus and a plane to transport him and 59 Arabs to Beirut.

Tackling armed sieges is now almost routine for the Metropolitan Police, though it has been many years since it has had to cope with such a serious one. In spite of the regularity of the threat, the force has no hostage-tackling unit. It relies on a team of senior officers, drawn from both uniformed and CID ranks, to lead negotiations when needed. A specialist firearms team will always be on the scene too.

The most severe hostage crisis faced by the force came in spring 1980 when heavily armed terrorists took over the Iranian embassy in central London.

London haven for Arab visitors

By DAVID YOUNG

TOKYO Joe's, on the corner of Clarges Street in Piccadilly is now mainly used by London's Middle Eastern community, but when it opened in 1981 in the basement of the former home of the millionaire Olga Deterding, who had died two years previously, a considerable smattering of those left over from the Swinging Sixties were among its members.

Tokyo Joe's was set up by Michael Withers, a retired banker, who sold it in October 1982 to its present owners, Hrad Darian and his partner, for an undisclosed sum. The club is used by members of the Saudi, Jordanian and Kuwaiti royal families and a recent visitor was Edwin Starr, the pop singer.

Dai Llewellyn, the socialite, was the "greeter" at the gala opening night, and the club soon became popular with society and showbusiness celebrities, including Bianca Jagger.

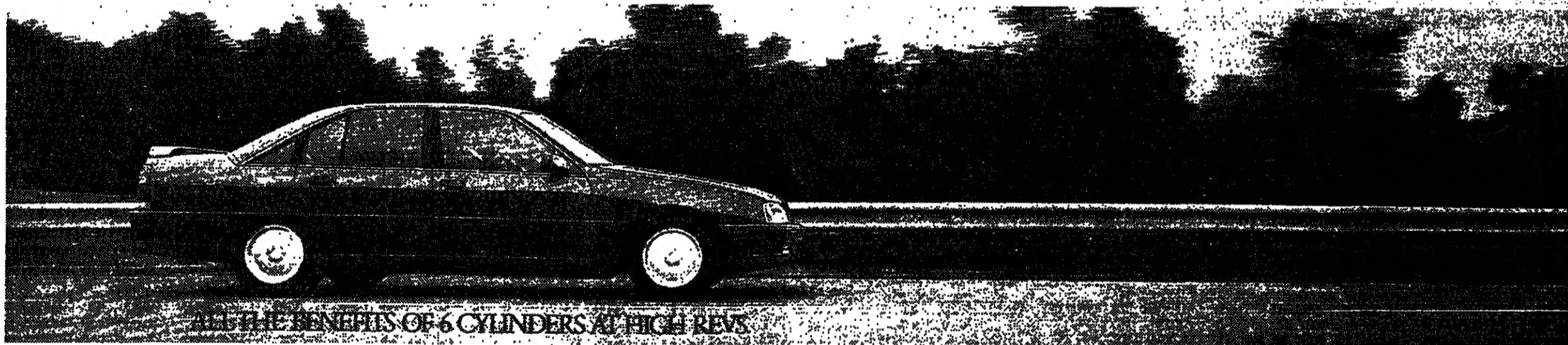
The Prince of Wales was reputedly a past

visitor, and portraits of the Prince and the Princess of Wales hang in the club. A feature of the original club was a series of portraits painted by young artists in the style of old masters but with the faces of celebrities.

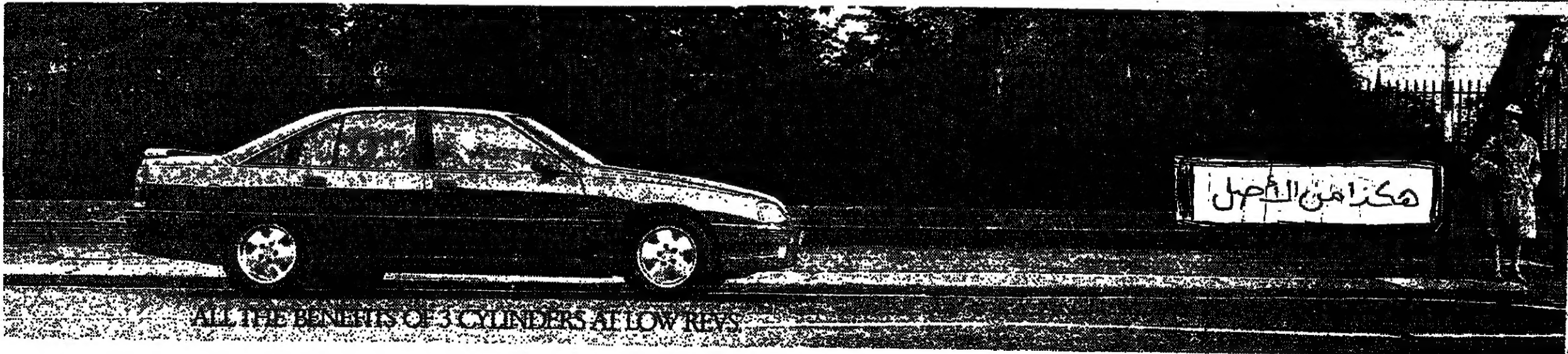
The initial membership fee was a then-expensive £100 a year and the club claimed as founding members Prince Ferdinand von Bismarck and Rod Stewart. A discounted membership of £50 was available to favoured people. Some celebrities, such as Stirling Moss and the late Reginald Bosnquet, were offered the use of a table in the club where it was unlikely that a bill would be presented.

The membership fee has since risen to £600 a year and the club has undergone at least one refurbishment. The membership list is now almost entirely Middle Eastern. Dancing, drinking and eating are offered until 3am, and the club is well known among visiting Arab businessmen.

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Ombudsman to take up complaints about solicitors' services

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

THE legal profession's machinery for handling complaints from the public is expected to receive close scrutiny with the appointment this week of the first legal services ombudsman for England and Wales.

The post is being set up by the Lord Chancellor under his legal reforms bill in response to what he sees as "public disquiet about the effectiveness of the profession's procedures for dealing swiftly and effectively with alleged failures in professional competence". The appointment of the ombudsman, who will have oversight of the solicitors' and barristers' complaints machinery, comes at a time of increasing complaints about lawyers from the public and concern about how such complaints are dealt with by the Law Society and the Bar.

Earlier this month, Lionel Lightman, the lay observer, said that his own complaints machinery was "on the verge of breakdown". His office acts as a last resort for clients who are still dissatisfied after going through the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau.

Because of the increase in complaints to the lay observer's office three extra staff were drafted in to help him. At

the end of 1989, he had more than 400 cases awaiting his reports, rising to 470 outstanding cases early this year.

The rise in complaints does not reflect only increased incompetence by solicitors. With other professionals, solicitors are suffering from a growing climate of litigation fever.

The profession carries some blame. The Solicitors' Compensation Fund, which makes payments when solicitors abscond with clients' money, faced claims totalling £14.6 million last year, against £6.7 million the year before.

The high total was mainly because of six "extraordinary defaulters" who gave rise to claims of more than £7 million. As a result, partners in all solicitors' firms are facing a special levy of £295 and all solicitors a rise in the cost of premiums to the fund from the £100 to £125.

Complaints from the public which chiefly concern delay, poor communications and negligent or inadequate services go first to the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau in Victoria, London, which at present costs the profession £7.3 million a year. There has been a rapid rise in complaints. Five years ago, the number totalled 12,000. That rose to 16,000 in 1986, and again to 18,000 this year, although for the first time that total indicates a levelling out in the number of complaints.

The bureau was set up in 1986 after Glanville Davies, a Law Society council member, was struck off for overcharging a client by £131,000. That led to the Law Society overhauling its complaints procedures and the creation of the bureau as an arm's-length department of the Law Society. The bureau represents a considerable improvement in the handling of complaints

compared with five years ago when they were all dealt with internally by the Law Society. The bureau has powers to look at shoddy work as well as more serious cases of professional misconduct and negligence.

There is still dissatisfaction with the bureau's workings. Recently it faced the threat of judicial review proceedings over its handling of a complaint against a London solicitor, Arnold Rosen. He was reported to the society in 1988 by a client after changing his mind about his legal costs. Originally he said they would be £1,500 after he won the

client £6,000 compensation. He later revised the figure to £2,875.

That complaint in turn led Mr Rosen to take up the way the bureau investigates such matters. After being on the receiving end, he is critical of way complaints are looked at. He maintains that decisions are taken in secret by the bureau's adjudication committee, which decides if a penalty should be imposed, without a right for the solicitor to be heard, on the basis that this process is "peer review" and if it was public, the committee could not get through its work. The real

reason for refusing to grant the complainant and solicitor a right of audience before the committee is that then each would have to be represented and "that would be an administrative inconvenience", Mr Rosen says.

"But in the 2,000 cases a year where the committee are minded to discipline, why should not a solicitor exercise a right to be heard?" he asks. His judicial review proceedings did not come to trial. The Law Society reached an agreement in which it agreed to withdraw its criticism and pay his costs, about £75,000.

Another solicitor, Stephen Lawson of Cheshire, says the bureau no longer enjoys the confidence of the public or of the profession. He has only once been reported to the bureau and describes himself as "simply an ordinary member of the legal profession" looking in from the outside. He believes, however, that the bureau is wasting its time "on matters that have absolutely nothing to do with professional misconduct", such as the loss of a client's file or refusal to accept payment by instalments.

Recently Mr Lawson had experience of the bureau as a customer after reporting two other solicitors. The handling of both matters, he says, was unsatisfactory. One case took the bureau 17 months to decide to act on his complaint and in that time four different people dealt with one matter.

There are also complaints by the lay observer himself, whose job will be abolished when the legal services ombudsman takes over on January 2. He has pointed out a case which took six years to get to court, and where the bureau decided disciplinary sanctions were not warranted. He says it was a "matter of some concern that the bureau should apparently find, on the solicitors' own account, unexplained delays totalling over three years to be acceptable."

Reforms aimed at improving lawyers' complaints bureau



Lower: greater emphasis on customer care

A NUMBER of reforms are in the pipeline which should greatly improve the service the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau gives in its difficult role of being fair both to the public and to solicitors (Frances Gibb writes).

The Law Society is drafting new professional practice rules which will require solicitors to tell clients of their charging rates at the start of a transaction and to inform them of internal procedures the firm has for handling complaints.

If endorsed by the society's council, the new rules are expected to bring a big decrease in complaints now going to the bureau. Instead, these would

be handled by solicitors themselves. Mavis Fairhurst, for the bureau, said: "People are hung up on the word complaint. But if only the profession would realise that every enquiry only becomes a complaint when it is not dealt with effectively then it would reduce much of the bureau's workload."

The bureau is planning a reorganisation of its services. Under its new director, Veronica Lowe, it aims to put more emphasis on customer care and diagnostic services and less on the bureau's punitive role. The result should be greater emphasis on ensuring that justifiably aggrieved clients are properly and swiftly com-

pensated, with only cases deserving penalties against solicitors going through that machinery.

Miss Fairhurst said: "Everything that comes in at present is treated as a complaint when, in fact, 27 per cent of the 18,000 matters are capable of being dealt with through conciliation and can be sorted out on the ground." The plan is for all letters to be channelled through a "diagnostic unit" which will then live off all matters which are not complaints or which can be handled through conciliation.

Second, under the legal reforms now going through parliament the bureau will have power to award

compensation, probably of up to £1,000 in minor negligence cases. Third, there are plans to extend the conciliation schemes, now running on a pilot basis. Under these, the case is sent back to a local conciliator who acts as a mediator between complainant and solicitor. Fourth, the bureau is examining how it can set up an appeals procedure as part of its structure.

The new legal services ombudsman will be given statutory powers which far exceed the very limited powers of the lay observer. These new teeth should ensure real improvements in the way the profession handles complaints.

Labour to build on reputation for economic aptitude

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leadership will attempt further to improve its reputation for competence in economic management in response to an analysis of opinion research presented to the shadow cabinet last week.

The analysis suggested that sustaining Labour's credibility on the economy was necessary to help it to reap the full benefit of its lead over the Conservatives on policies for the public services and quality of life. Labour strategists believe that the findings of the research, involving widespread standard sample polling and organised discussion groups with voters, can challenge the conventional wisdom that the electoral prospects of the Conservative party brighten as voters become more optimistic about the economy.

The analysis, studied by the shadow cabinet as it prepared its campaigning plans at an end-of-term strategy meeting in south London, suggests that increasing economic expectations could benefit Labour if people also support the party's priorities for more investment in health care, education and improving the environment. For that to happen, people must first be convinced of Labour's ability to use the available resources properly. Acting on the analysis, Neil Kinnock, and John Smith, the shadow chancellor, are expected to press harder their message that a higher standard of living and better quality of services under Labour must come from improved economic performance and growth.

The analysis, conducted for Labour and presented to the shadow cabinet by the party's communications team, reaffirmed the need for the party to capture votes in the centre of British politics if it is to win power. It also found that Labour has still failed to lay completely the electoral bog of mass picketing, unilateral disarmament, renationalisation and extremism. In spite of the party's organisational and policy changes, they are still given as reasons for not voting Labour.

However, the research suggests that voter antipathy on all four issues is far weaker than it was in the past. It

found that people felt more strongly on the reasons they gave for voting against the Conservatives. Here, the list included failure to invest in education and training, allowing the economy to become less competitive and fall behind the rest of Europe, a feeling that the Tories have lost touch with the needs of ordinary people and the belief that it is time for change.

According to party strategists the most welcome finding of the analysis was public acceptance of Labour as a mainstream representative party and a belief that Labour, rather than the Conservatives, was committed to providing economic opportunities for everyone and better understood the needs of families.

The analysis found that neither party had a decisive lead on taxation. According to party strategists, however, it suggested that keeping down taxes was well down the list of voter priorities. High on the list were abolishing the poll tax, improving the health service and schools, fighting pollution and keeping down the cost of living.

Opinion polls yesterday presented differing pictures to the political parties. A Mori poll in *The Sunday Times* said that Labour's lead had been cut to 8 per cent, a reduction of two-thirds since March. In contrast, an ICM poll in *The Sunday Correspondent* put the Labour lead at 16 per cent, only one point down on the previous month. The Mori poll suggested an increase in support for the Conservatives from skilled manual workers and said that more than one third of the so-called C2s are supporting the Tories, compared with a quarter in April.

not being suggested that the whole area of the two bases should be kept under Nato control, only the runways and shelters and the housing and other facilities could be handed back to the West German government.

If the runways and shelters were preserved the RAF would expect to keep a small permanent staff on the bases. No decision has yet been taken on which of the four RAF bases in West Germany are to be closed and any formal proposal to keep the two selected for closure for a standby role is likely to be treated with caution by Bonn.

Under the Status of Forces agreement between Britain and West Germany, all land and buildings no longer required for military purposes have to be handed back to Bonn. There is not expected to be any financial arrangements involved, although under a supplementary agreement, Bonn can claim compensation for the cost of dilapidation "over and above fair wear and tear" and Britain can claim for the residual value of any improvements made.

RAF bases in Britain will also be closed as the details of the government proposals are worked out by the staffs, but there will be great reluctance to close any base with a good runway. In West Germany the RAF's future training regime will depend on Bonn.

RAF chiefs are expecting an almost total ban on low flying after the united German elections in December. They believe that Tornados will be banned from flying at 250ft, the altitude required for giving pilots a realistic training environment.

Such a ban would probably lead to increasing pressure for a limit or ban on 250ft training flights by the RAF in Britain. The RAF might have to turn to other countries, perhaps in North Africa, to find suitable terrain for low-flying training flights.



Full steam ahead: Boadicea, a road locomotive built to pull howitzers during the first world war, setting off at a sedate pace in readiness for the Rushmore steam and vintage rally in Hampshire at the weekend. The locomotive was, however, saved from war duties and sent instead to Hull to pull heavy

haulage. Boadicea was one of more than 60 steam traction engines on display at the rally. The vehicle, which is owned by Anthony Heal and driven by Martin Fagg, has a top speed of 16 miles an hour and uses a hundredweight of high quality Welsh steam coal, costing about £6, every eight miles.

RAF wants Nato role at closed bases

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE RAF is hoping that the two bases due for closure in West Germany under the government's "options for change" defence review will be kept on as Nato standby stations, according to sources yesterday.

Although no proposal has yet been made to the government, the RAF argues that it would be a false economy to get rid of high-quality runways and reinforced shelters for bombers and fighters.

It is likely that General John Galvin, supreme allied commander in Europe, will come under pressure to consider the wisdom of maintaining such valuable military assets. It is

not being suggested that the whole area of the two bases should be kept under Nato control, only the runways and shelters and the housing and other facilities could be handed back to the West German government.

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Teacher training disrupting school life, heads claim

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

TEACHERS are spending too much time out of the classroom on training courses, with an average of about 15,000 of the 400,000 teachers in England and Wales away from school every day of term, according to a survey carried out by the National Association of Head Teachers.

David Hart, the association's general secretary, said yesterday: "The substantial increase in the level of training during the school day bodes no good for the standard of education provided for the pupils in the schools." He believes teachers should be paid to undertake training in their own time with the cost met from money saved by not employing supply teachers.

The education and science department, however, insisted last night that the training was essential to equip teachers for the national curriculum and that it was up to local authorities to ensure that this was carried out with the minimum of disruption to pupils.

Mr Hart said that the 1989-90 figures showed that in addition to the five training days allowed every year, when schools are closed to pupils, teachers spent 2,891,772 days training, a 9 per cent increase on the previous year, with every teacher spending an average 7.3 days out of the classroom.

He is particularly concerned about the differences between the local authorities. Cleveland has an average of 1.9 days per teacher compared with Nottinghamshire at 16.3, and North Yorkshire with 15.3. Among the 18 of the 40 county councils above the national average, Avon, Bedfordshire, Devon, Gloucestershire, Hereford and Worcester, Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire all exceed double figures.

Four of the 20 outer London boroughs are above the national average, led by Barking, 19.3, and Enfield, 12.2, with Sutton the least at 1.2. The metropolitan boroughs are headed by Bury with 31.7 and Bradford, 17.8, while St Helens is at the foot with 2.9.

Mr Hart said: "The enormous variation between one local education authority and another deserves the closest possible attention." He is to ask John MacGregor, the education secretary, to investigate the disruptive effect training has on children's education and the need for supply teachers.

The education department said that training was vital for the teachers' professional development and for the education of their pupils. "It is part of the teachers' normal duties and good planning of teacher training should minimise interference with pupils' education. We do not dispute the

figures but believe that this amount of training is necessary."

● The number of sixth-formers who get wrong 70 common words in a spelling test has increased slightly over six years, according to a report in the *Mail on Sunday* yesterday. It was based on a survey of 1,700 teenagers at an unnamed sixth-form centre in the home counties.

The number of pupils mis-spelling words rose in almost every case between 1984 and 1989. For example, those who cannot spell "committee" jumped from 57 per cent to 75 per cent. Those who mis-spell "merely" rose from 26 per cent to 39 per cent.

Education, pages 14,15

Pollution warnings at beach

Pollution signs have been erected on Leas Foot beach at Thurlestone, Devon, warning swimmers not to go into the sea because of raw sewage. The signs, thought to be the first in the country, have been put up by the parish council which wants a proper sewage treatment plant.

The beach was rated the most polluted in Europe in 1985 when levels of sewage were 16 times the maximum allowed and 3,200 times the recommended level.

Cemetery attack

Police are investigating the desecration of a rarely used Jewish cemetery in the Charlestown area of Manchester. Anti-Semitic slogans were daubed on graves and headstones overturned.

Sculpture park

Villagers near the home of the late Henry Moore are objecting to a scheme for a sculpture park in the grounds of Hoglands, the sculptor's home near Much Hadham, Hertfordshire, because of increased visitors to the area.

Standard lamps

The blue lamp made famous by *Dixon of Dock Green* is to reappear outside police stations in Devon and Cornwall. John Evans, the chief constable, said many of the buildings had different signs and were not easily recognisable as police stations.

Shelf life

Kurt Burtenshaw, aged 19, a storeman, was stung by a scorpion as he unpacked a box of bananas at Sainsbury's supermarket in Seaford, East Sussex, at the weekend. He was later released from hospital. The scorpion was killed.

Actress dies

Elizabeth Allan, the film and stage actress, has died in a nursing home at Brighton, East Sussex, after suffering a stroke. She is believed to have been 80. She was later a regular contestant on television panel games.

Obituary, page 12

Bond winners

National Savings Premium Bonds weekly draw winners: £100,000, bond number 771 098628, winner lives in Cornwall; £50,000, 27BL 830622, Newport, Gwent; £25,000, 12PK 115153, Surrey.

How poaching adds up to a crime wave on the river bank

By RONALD FAUX

RONALD Rose's attempt to become a legitimate salmon fisherman on the Dee founded last week.

Neston Crown Court, in Cheshire, revoked his commercial fishing licence for a minimum of two years after hearing that between the time of National Rivers Authority bailiffs catching him poaching the river and the court convicting him, Rose, aged 59, of Lache, Cheshire, had been granted a licence to do legally what he had been caught doing illegally. He was also fined £75 with £100 costs and his boat and fishing gear were confiscated. His poaching partner, Alan Ingram, aged 43, also of Lache, Cheshire, was ordered to do

120 hours' community service and to pay £100 costs.

The two had denied poaching salmon on the Dee early one morning last August. They elected for trial by jury before the crown court, which can impose unlimited fines for illegal fishing. Rose's assertions that he had merely stopped by the river to relieve himself, that two large salmon found on the bank were not his and that one of the bailiffs was trying to "set him up", were not accepted.

The men had been observed by five bailiffs who were camouflaged and in hiding along both banks of the Dee and watching proceedings through an image-intensifying monocular, a device that turns night into

day and allows a skilful baitfish to infiltrate his way among poachers, when the night is not too light.

The baitfish's job is made even more difficult by the laws enmeshing the catching of fish. It would have been in order for Rose and Ingram to drift down the Dee in the early morning with their armoured net stretched across the waterway if they were catching fluke, flatfish that are a popular target and poachers' alibi. The fact that fluke are best caught at high water between September and December and that this was low water in August might have caused the baitfish's brow to pucker. But when through the monocular, the bailiffs saw the men lift salmon from the net and

put them under a sod of grass on the bank, the offence under the Freshwater Fisheries Act had been established. Salmon caught accidentally in pursuit of other species must be returned immediately to the river.

The law has been strengthened by section 32 of the Salmon Act, which makes it an offence to bring salmon ashore even when the person in possession may not have caught the fish. This disposes of the whiskered excuse of "We found them on the bank and were on our way with them to the fisheries office" by which many a poacher has escaped.

On the 26 miles of the Dee estuary the rise in poaching has, like other crime, grown with unemployment in the region. Although salmon

farming has cut the value of wild salmon and complicated the law for the baitfish, unable to tell "wild" from "farmed", a good 10 lb wild fish will still fetch £25 on the backdoor market and the authorities have failed to have hoteliers included in the licensed dealer net.

The rivers authority says that the legal salmon catch on the Dee is 1,000 by rods and 1,500 by nets, but estimates that the total may be almost doubled by poachers, with the problem also affecting all the other salmon estuaries. Brian Hodgson, area fisheries officer, said: "You have a multi-million pound illegal market, and loss to the industry, to tourism, the environment and the health of the rivers."

Gorbachev battles to keep control of republic finances

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev yesterday asserted the pre-eminence of the Soviet Union's state bank, Gosbank, over new banks established by the republics. The decree, aimed at settling a dispute between Gosbank and the parliament of the Russian Federation, which had announced the establishment of a separate Russian bank, also reflects the leadership's concern that central financial control may be slipping away in other republics, too.

The decree calls on republic parliaments to "refrain from passing or applying legislation which would destroy the financial and banking system", until the new union treaty has been passed. It also sets up a council in which the state bank and republic banks are to be represented.

The treaty is expected to be ready in draft by the end of the year, designed to create a "union of sovereign states" with more power devolved from the centre. Already, however, the three Baltic republics have said that they will not sign, as they all seek full independence from the Soviet

Union. In his decree, Mr Gorbachev gave a warning of the "negative social and economic consequences" that could result from the destruction of a single nationwide monetary system.

He also orders the republics to keep their budgets as far as possible in balance, and to observe current tax laws in drafting their economic plans for next year. This requirement is unlikely to be met voluntarily by several republics, including the Russian Federation, which want to reduce the new 45 per cent tax on corporations and businesses to encourage enterprise.

At the weekend the Soviet leader, presiding over the first meeting of the Communist party's new secretariat, spoke of the need for "a broad coalition of progressive forces". He also spent four hours on Friday in a brainstorming session with leading Soviet economists and journalists, including the radical economists, Nikolai Petrakov and Pavel Bunich, and the editor of *Moscow News*, Yegor Yakovlev.

The meeting has been only sketchily reported, but was used by Mr Gorbachev to warn of the dangers to reform and to the Soviet Union itself, if the radicals and reformists inside and outside the party became divided. He is also believed to have called for sympathetic presentation of his policies in the transition to a market economy.

But on Saturday there were separate meetings of the leaders of the three Baltic republics with Boris Yeltsin, who is on holiday in the Latvian resort of Jurmala. The subject of their talks was the possibility that Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia might sign separate bilateral treaties with the Russian Federation, of which Mr Yeltsin is president.

Afterwards, the Lithuanian Prime Minister, Kazimieras Prunskis, who will shortly be leading his republic's delegation in talks with Moscow about independence, said she wanted to negotiate with the Soviet and the Russian Federation authorities in parallel.

In the southern republic of Georgia, thousands of members of informal groups succeeded in blocking the Soviet Union's main railway access to the Caucasus as a political protest. More than 90 freight trains and 30 passenger trains with 25,000 people on board were halted, and the authorities made no attempt to open the line by force.

The protesters were demanding an emergency meeting of the Georgian parliament to make all parties in the republic legal.

In the central region of the Russian Federation, near the city of Kazan in the Tatar Autonomous Region, a locally elected protest committee has taken control of a hitherto secret chemical weapons depot. Protesters complain that poor storage conditions make the depot dangerous.

Elsewhere in the Russian Federation and in other grain-growing regions there are reports of strike committees being set up to prevent the delivery of grain and other food products to the state. The committees want guarantees that the sales will be paid for in the form of better facilities for the rural areas.

●Kremlin denied: Armenia's parliament has defied President Gorbachev by voting to suspend a presidential decree demanding the disarming of all militant groups within 15 days, a nationalist group there said yesterday. (*Reuters*).

●Old name: Gorky Street, Moscow's main thoroughfare, will be given back its old name of Tver Street, the name it had since the 15th century. (*AP*)

Moscow tells IMF it wants to join

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT IN MOSCOW

THE managing director of the International Monetary Fund, Michel Camdessus, ended a three-day visit to Moscow yesterday after hearing from Soviet ministers that the country wants to start talks on Soviet membership of the International Monetary Fund.

The visit — the first official contact at this level between the Soviet Union and the IMF — came as a deputy prime minister disclosed that the Soviet Union's hard currency debt was 36 billion roubles (£36 billion), up two billion from the figure given by the prime minister, Nikolai Ryzhkov, last month.

Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, was reported to have told M Camdessus that the Soviet Union regarded IMF membership as "a logical continuation of its policy of wider involvement in global economic co-operation" and that the new climate in international relations had "paved the way" for talks on the subject.

In an earlier meeting with Mr Ryzhkov, however, M Camdessus was quoted as having warned that the rouble's non-convertibility was

an obstacle to Soviet membership. Mr Gorbachev told the Communist party congress earlier this month that progress towards convertibility was a priority for economic reform and must be quickened.

There are few other details of M Camdessus's talks in Moscow, although it is known he met senior officials of the foreign ministry, the state planning committee (Gosplan) and the state bank (Gosbank). The main subject was said to have been the outcome of the Group of Seven summit in Houston which delayed a decision on granting the Soviet Union aid until its economy had been more closely studied.

Soviet interest in joining the IMF is part of the leadership's new desire to join international organisations. The country has already been granted observer status at GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade). Mr Shevardnadze told M Camdessus that Moscow had considered joining the IMF in 1945 when Soviet experts had warned that the country risked economic isolation. But "that advice went unheeded".



A Mongolian man in traditional clothes voting in Ulan Batur in the country's first free elections yesterday. The results, expected in the next few days, are likely to confirm victory for the ruling communist Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party

Prime minister plans to woo Yugoslavs with new party

FROM DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

ANTE Markovic, the popular prime minister who has the reputation of being acceptable to all Yugoslavs, is to form his own party and has invited all reform-minded Yugoslavs to join.

At a rally of 100,000 people at Kozara in Bosnia, he said he and his associates in the federal government had de-

cided to form an alliance of reform forces to compete in the federal parliamentary elections which, he said, would take place by the end of the year.

Federal legislation legalising political parties was adopted only a few days ago. Similar laws have been endorsed by the republics and in some, such as Croatia and Slovenia, democratically elected governments have been installed.

National friction and ethnic conflict have been jeopardising Mr Markovic's radical reforms and threatening to divide the country. Serbia, lately the fiercest critic of Mr Markovic's economic programme, suggested it would stand against the federal government forming its own party.

Free elections in Serbia are now likely. The opposition fears Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian party leader, may rush the election before they have time to organise.

Mr Markovic can muster support from well over 50 per cent of Yugoslavs, the latest opinion polls show. The reasons for his popularity are understandable. In the 18 months his government has been in office, inflation, which had reached a 3,000 per cent annual rate, has been controlled. Since the beginning of the year it has been reduced to nil.

Federal foreign exchange reserves now stand at almost \$10 billion (£5.5 billion) which, for a country that was on the brink of bankruptcy, is a spectacular achievement.

Deadlock may push Bulgaria to fresh elections

FROM TIM JUDAH IN SOFIA

BULGARIA'S continuing turmoil may lead to fresh elections, some observers believe. The first freely elected parliament since the war has so far failed to find a new president, government is paralysed, and MPs are divided over whether to allow a live broadcast of testimony by the former communist leader before parliament.

Parliament, which meets today, seems unlikely to resolve the deadlock and a source close to the opposition said that the leader of the Union of Democratic Forces, Zhelev, is expected to demand the resignation of the Socialist government.

This move is bound to heighten tensions, especially since the lack of a president makes the government's resignation almost a technical impossibility. The Socialist, the renamed Communist party, kept power in elections held in June.

The seriousness of the situation was shown by the dramatic events last Friday night. The interior minister resigned in a fit of despair, parliament was surrounded by demonstrators, and the prime minister's car was attacked as he left the building. The demonstrators came to parliament as it began a furious debate on whether the appearance of the former communist dictator, Todor Zhivkov, should be in closed session.

The Socialists argued that for reasons of national security, his testimony should be edited for broadcast. Opposition MPs said that Mr Zhivkov's appearance must be seen and heard in its entirety by the whole country.

A Socialist MP, Yurak Stofov, admitted that many people in his party were scared that what Mr Zhivkov had to say might damage their political careers.

Meanwhile, the presidential crisis and the argument over Mr Zhivkov's appearance appear to be deepening divisions in the UDF, the main opposition group.

According to one reformer in the Socialist party, these divisions may already be having effects. In an effort to break the political deadlock and avoid new elections, he said, some disgruntled opposition MPs and some Socialists had begun meeting informally "with a view to resolving the country's crisis and talking about new political alignments".

●BUDAPEST: Voter turnout was exceptionally high yesterday in Hungary's national referendum on how to elect the country's president, as Hungarians flocked to resorts with temperatures reaching the nineties (Ernest Beck writes).

If the referendum fails on turnout or its own merits, parliament is likely to confirm Arpad Guncz, the interim president, as president this week, completing Hungary's peaceful transition to democracy and ending a year-long dispute over the issue between the main political parties.

The East Germans to spend £1.3bn on army

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

WITH less than five months to go before East Germany ceases to exist, it is spending DM 3.8 billion (£1.31 billion) on military equipment and salaries for its armed forces.

Rainer Eppelmann, minister for disarmament and defence, has ordered two new 38-knot rocket-launcher boats, a Soviet Mi24 helicopter gunship capable of firing 128 rockets simultaneously, multi-barrelled Katyusha rocket launchers, and 4,500 Kalashnikov AK-74 machine-pistols, with 30 million rounds of ammunition.

According to *Bild am Sonntag*, which was given the DM 989 million "shopping list" by the East German disarmament and defence ministry, the National People's Army is also to have the armour of its 350 Soviet-built T-72 tanks strengthened and guided missiles fitted to its armed personnel carriers.

The wage bill for the army to the end of the year is set at DM 2.09 billion. According to Frau Vera Wollenberger, deputy chairman of the Volkskammer committee on disarmament and defence, this is enough to pay a battle-ready army of 110,000 men, while Herr Eppelmann has said the army is down to 98,000 men and West German experts estimate the true figure at below 80,000.

A further DM 1.21 billion has been set aside for running costs. Herr Eppelmann had wanted to spend DM 4.46 billion in all, but the Volkskammer cut his proposal by 15 per cent.

East Germany expects to have a budget deficit of about DM 34 billion this year, of which West Germany has undertaken to meet DM 24.7 billion. The remaining DM 10 billion will have to come from the taxpayers of the country after it is united.

Uwe Hempel, Herr Eppelmann's spokesman, vigorously defended the budget. Obsolete equipment had to be replaced, he said, it was not a question of rearmament but of adjustment. "The army still exists and will exist for some time to come."

How long it will exist is a matter of contention between the two Germans. Herr Eppelmann and Michael Meckel, the East German foreign minister, have both said they want the army alone to be responsible for security in the present East German territory after reunification. Horst Teltschick, in charge of Helmut Kohl's private office, has said categorically that the East German army cannot continue after reunification.

The East German government is fighting to preserve its army largely because it fears that if it is disbanded this will add tens of thousands to the unemployment figures. The West German Bundeswehr is not interested in taking over East Germany's army because it is politically suspect, with most of its officers communists, while its training methods and weapons are incompatible.

Robins paying of igne city's

FROM JERRY TAYLOR

AND Robins had a major role in the bombing of Friday night. The plane was the first to drop bombs. The second was a B-29. The third was a B-52. The fourth was a B-1. The fifth was a B-7. The sixth was a B-2. The seventh was a B-1. The eighth was a B-7. The ninth was a B-2. The tenth was a B-1. The eleventh was a B-7. The twelfth was a B-2. The thirteenth was a B-1. The fourteenth was a B-7. The fifteenth was a B-2. The sixteenth was a B-1. The seventeenth was a B-7. The eighteenth was a B-2. The nineteenth was a B-1. The twentieth was a B-7. The twenty-first was a B-2. The twenty-second was a B-1. The twenty-third was a B-7. The twenty-fourth was a B-2. The twenty-fifth was a B-1. The twenty-sixth was a B-7. The twenty-seventh was a B-2. The twenty-eighth was a B-1. The twenty-ninth was a B-7. The thirtieth was a B-2. The thirty-first was a B-1. The thirty-second was a B-7. The thirty-third was a B-2. The thirty-fourth was a B-1. The thirty-fifth was a B-7. The thirty-sixth was a B-2. The thirty-seventh was a B-1. The thirty-eighth was a B-7. The thirty-ninth was a B-2. The fortieth was a B-1. The forty-first was a B-7. The forty-second was a B-2. The forty-third was a B-1. The forty-fourth was a B-7. The forty-fifth was a B-2. The forty-sixth was a B-1. The forty-seventh was a B-7. The forty-eighth was a B-2. The forty-ninth was a B-1. The fiftieth was a B-7. The fifty-first was a B-2. The fifty-second was a B-1. The fifty-third was a B-7. The fifty-fourth was a B-2. The fifty-fifth was a B-1. The fifty-sixth was a B-7. The fifty-seventh was a B-2. The fifty-eighth was a B-1. The fifty-ninth was a B-7. The sixtieth was a B-2. The sixty-first was a B-1. The sixty-second was a B-7. The sixty-third was a B-2. The sixty-fourth was a B-1. The sixty-fifth was a B-7. The sixty-sixth was a B-2. The sixty-seventh was a B-1. The sixty-eighth was a B-7. The sixty-ninth was a B-2. The seventieth was a B-1. The seventy-first was a B-7. The seventy-second was a B-2. 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The East Germans to spend £1.3bn on army

The coup attempt by Muslim militants in Trinidad

Robinson is paying price of ignoring city's poor

FROM JEREMY TAYLOR IN PORT OF SPAIN

TRINIDAD and Tobago had just escaped a tropical storm called Arthur on Friday night and was in no mood for more upsets. Then there were the Caribbean football championships to think about. The government of Arthur Robinson, the prime minister, is unpopular, but not that unpopular. The Jamaat al-Muslimeen was feuding with the government, but that was not new.

Was not this the land of Caribbean oil dollars, the world's most peaceful carnival, the land of cricket, calypso and steel bands, a land which has held free elections regularly every five years since self-rule in 1962?

The man who turned that image upside down at the weekend, Yasin Abu-Bakr, is a former policeman and footballer who studied mass communications in America. About one in eighteen people in Trinidad and Tobago is Muslim, part of the long Indian migration into the southern Caribbean after emancipation. But Mr Abu-Bakr is of African descent with all the zeal of the Islamic fundamentalists and of the Black Muslim movement in the United States.

He has run the Jamaat al-Muslimeen on a compound just outside Port of Spain for many years. It includes a mosque, school and day-care

centre, and runs medical clinics in some of the poorer areas of the city. This has given him a popular following among the poor, fuelled by his uncompromising attacks on poverty and deprivation.

The imam cut little ice with the Trinidadian middle class which, since Mr Robinson came to power in 1986, has found a government more sympathetic to its interests. He clashed with successive governments over the legality of his commune and its buildings. There were police raids, buildings were torn down, and for three months an army unit has been stationed at the compound angering Mr Abu-Bakr, who claimed it had no legal justification. He offered to work with the government to supply a cargo of scarce medical supplies, but was rejected.

The middle class remembered only that the Jamaat al-Muslimeen was well armed, that some of its members had been in trouble with police, and that it enjoyed support from Libya, which several of its members have visited.

Trinidad and Tobago's long recession during the 1980s provided fertile ground for Mr Abu-Bakr's concerns. The economy has contracted for eight successive years; living standards have fallen by more than 40 per cent since the oil boom ended, and unemployment



Muslim militant: Yasin Abu-Bakr, right, the Trinidad coup leader, on a goodwill visit to Barbados this month

has risen to 25 per cent. Mr Robinson and his National Alliance for Reconstruction came to power with a huge majority at the end of 1986 promising to reverse the decline. A series of austerity measures backed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have slowed but not stopped the decline. Serious social tensions arose, including friction between the two main ethnic groups, and scores of businesses collapsed.

Mr Robinson's government

argued that little could be done to solve social problems without money, and the top priority was to restore positive growth. This left him open to accusations of being insensitive to poor people's problems and too preoccupied with macro-economics.

His recent enthusiasm for a 20-year-old corruption scandal, in which the Tesoro Petroleum Corporation is said to have bribed members of former governments, and his announcement that part of the

money from an out-of-court settlement would be spent on a monument to an outspoken civil servant who died in 1973, annoyed many people, including Mr Abu-Bakr. Hence the imam's thundering denunciations of the government's failure to address poverty and what he called the prevailing animosity, shortages of medicines, bigotry and racism, crime and child abuse.

Trinidad and Tobago has strong democratic instincts and will be deeply uneasy

about the imam's coup attempt. But in one sense it is re-staging an old class battle which last erupted in an army mutiny and black power upheaval in 1970, and which has produced sporadic upheavals in the powerful labour movement since then.

Mr Robinson, in his concern to restructure the economy, has taken working-class patience too much for granted and is paying the price.

Leading article, page 11

Armies alerted in outraged Caribbean

By ANDREW MCEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE attempted overthrow of the Trinidad and Tobago government has outraged other Caribbean leaders, and drawn condemnation from the United States and from the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Jamaica and Barbados offered military assistance and put their armies on alert. The British government said it deplored any attempt to overthrow a democratically-elected government, but George Foulkes, a Labour foreign affairs spokesman, called for a stronger statement, saying that the government should make it clear that it would give technical help if asked.

The White House said in a statement: "The United States fully supports the elected government and is consulting closely with it and other interested governments in the region. We condemn yesterday's attempt by a violent extremist group to overthrow the democratic government of Trinidad and Tobago. We call upon the parties in this attempted coup to release the hostages under their control and to surrender to the legislative constitutional authority of Trinidad and Tobago."

Trinidad had not yet asked for help, but the United States would consider the request if they did, said the deputy press secretary, Alex Glen.

Chief Emeke Anyaoku, the Commonwealth secretary-general, strongly condemned the coup attempt. But Dr Javid Sattar, president of the World Council of Muslim

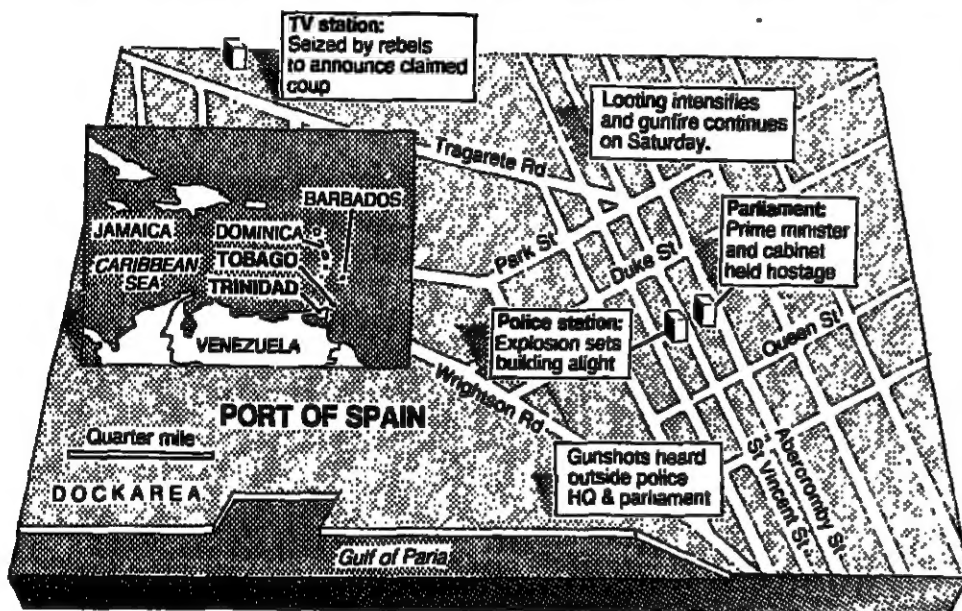
Youths, based in Britain, said that he knew Yasin Abu-Bakr, the rebel leader, and his movement in Trinidad was larger and better organised than reports had suggested. Mr Abu-Bakr had complained of harassment by the Trinidadian authorities, and had hinted several months ago that he was planning a coup.

He understood Mr Abu-Bakr had contacts in Libya, but these did not include Colonel Gaddafi. He said it might make the Trinidadian government pay more attention to Muslim leaders.

Arthur Robinson, the Trinidad prime minister who was being held hostage, had been due to attend a summit of the Caribbean Economic Community (Caricom), of which Trinidad is the second largest member. In Kingston, Percival Patterson, acting prime minister, said that Jamaica's defence force was being made ready in case the community was asked for military assistance.

Small numbers of Caricom troops were involved in the US invasion of Grenada in 1983, which followed the murder of Maurice Bishop, the prime minister.

Eugenia Charles, prime minister of Dominica, who requested the 1983 invasion, said of the Trinidadian attempted coup: "We cannot allow this nonsense." Erskine Sandiford, prime minister of Barbados, said that his army was on alert, while Sir Lynden Findling, prime minister of the Bahamas, pledged support without clarifying whether this included military help.



Noriega's banker convicted

Tampa, Florida — The long-time personal banker of Manuel Noriega, the deposed Panamanian leader, was convicted yesterday with five others in a scheme to launder \$32 million in cocaine profits for the Medellín cartel.

Amjad Awan, the Miami-based assistant director of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International's Latin American division and one-time banker to Noriega, four other ex-employees of BCCI, and a Colombian businessman were convicted of conspiracy and money-laundering counts.

Prosecutors hailed the verdict as an important victory in the war on drugs, but it was unclear how the outcome would affect the US government's case against Noriega, who is facing US charges of drug trafficking. (AP)

Former Austrian chancellor dies

Vienna — Bruno Kreisky, the former chancellor who gave neutral Austria a voice in world affairs during his 13-year rule, died yesterday at the age of 79.

Kreisky, who served as Socialist party chancellor from 1970 to 1983 and presided over the Socialist International, died after being treated for heart problems in a Vienna hospital, his doctor said. (Reuters)

US serviceman jailed for rape

Rota, Spain — A military judge sentenced a US Navy lieutenant to seven years in prison after convicting him of raping a female officer on board ship at Cartagena, Spain. The judge, Captain Thomas Lawrence, also dismissed Lieutenant Robin Brown, aged 27, of Wyoming, from the navy.

Captain Lawrence said he hoped the sentence would express the naval community's "moral outrage and indignation" that such a sexual attack could take place against one of its female officers. Brown's defence attorneys said they planned to appeal against conviction and sentence. (AP)

Man in the news: Arthur Robinson

High-handed ways lost leader his hard-won consensus

By ALAN TOMLINSON

THE three-and-a-half-year-old government of Trinidadian prime minister Arthur Robinson has been plagued with controversy over his aloof and autocratic leadership.

His multi-racial political coalition, the National Alliance for Reconstruction, soared to power in December 1986. It rode in on a wave of optimism that more open government could put an end to the corruption of the Afro-dominated People's National Movement (PNM) which had ruled for 30 years, and could save the nation from sharp economic decline.

Within months Mr Robinson was at loggerheads with the leading Indian members of his cabinet, whom he eventually sacked after their criticism became outspoken.

With national consensus for his economic austerity programme shattered, the 63-year-old prime minister's standing has been steadily eroded under a barrage of attacks about high-handed leadership and muddled planning.

With elections looming again, the soft-spoken native of the tranquil twin island of Tobago recently launched an anti-corruption campaign aimed at undermining the resurgent political hopes of the PNM.



Robinson: plans for a statue were last straw

Black Muslim militants who seized Mr Robinson and members of his government in an armed attack on parliament on Friday described as "the last straw" his announcement on Wednesday that he planned to spend half a million Trinidadian dollars (£6,500) on a statue to a late civil servant who had been a champion of honesty in government.

An Oxford-educated economist and lawyer, Mr Robinson began his political career with the PNM, rising through the party ranks to become number two under the late Dr Eric Williams.

He was foreign minister in 1970 when riots led to a state of emergency and a brief mutiny by troops.

After splitting from his party, Mr Robinson, of African descent, was chosen to lead the alliance which broke the PNM's lock on power, primarily because it was felt the Trinidadians were still not ready to elect a prime minister of East Indian extraction.

He embarked on an ambitious plan to lessen dependence on oil, attract foreign investors and cut government spending.

A traditional IMF prescription for the ailing economy resulted in wages slashed, taxes raised and government jobs axed.

An affable, greying man, Mr Robinson promised better ties with Trinidad and Tobago's Caribbean neighbours as well as a more open relationship with the media than had existed under the PNM.

Street protests erupted in the capital in June when hundreds of nurses from crisis-hit hospitals marched on the Red House, the parliament building in the city centre, where Mr Robinson and his colleagues were taken captive at the weekend.

Married with two children, Mr Robinson is an unostentatious leader who lists his hobbies as spending time by the sea, reading and relaxing in the countryside.

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Mandela calls for an end to Pretoria 'hysteria'

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

SPEAKING at a rally to relaunch the South African Communist Party (SACP) yesterday, Nelson Mandela called on the government to abandon attempts to create new obstacles to political reform talks, due to resume next Monday, by whipping up anti-communist hysteria, adding that "because we have an urgent task to attain our emancipation, we insist that the talks must go on".

After discussions with his national executive, Mr Mandela, the African National Congress deputy president, is to meet President de Klerk on Wednesday for the second time in a week.

Yesterday, in a clear reference to Mr de Klerk's demand that Joe Slovo, the Communist party secretary,

general and a member of the ANC executive, should be excluded from next week's talks, Mr Mandela said it was the ANC's desire that the Communist party, "like all other political formations in our country" should be active participants in the negotiation process.

At yesterday's mass rally, the communists' first in South Africa for 40 years, the party pledged its commitment to a peaceful negotiated settlement. Mr Slovo denounced the government's claims that the party was plotting armed insurrection as an attempt to break the alliance of the party and the ANC.

Mr Slovo, aged 64, and Mr Mandela, 72, were the main speakers at the rally in the 100,000-seat Soccer City stadium, near Soweto.

The official relaunching was attended by a disappointing 50,000, most of them black people.

Throughout the day police helicopters patrolled overhead and squads of riot police were drawn up outside.

For the first time the Communist party named its internal leadership, although real control will continue to be in Lusaka, the Zambian capital. Among those identified was Ronnie Kasrils, intelligence chief of Umkonto we Sizwe, the ANC's armed wing, who appeared at the rally despite being wanted by the police.

Last week in Johannesburg Mr Kasrils told journalists that he and Sathyaudranth "Mac" Maharaj had worked together to build up an ANC underground movement as insurance against the failure of constitutional talks. Mr Maharaj, also a member of the ANC executive and named as a member of the SACP internal leadership, is being held under security laws.

Yesterday, in his reference to the government's allegations of a planned insurrection by communist and ANC members, Mr Mandela said that "to suggest that these outstanding sons and daughters of our people harbour ideas of unilateral military action against the peace process is an insult".

Mr Slovo, in his speech, declared: "We, too, believe that a negotiated solution is in the interests of all South Africans, white and black. We have said over and over again that our party is committed both to the letter and spirit of the Groote Schuur Minute (the commitment to peaceful negotiation agreed by the government and the ANC at the Cape Town talks in May)".

Shortly before yesterday's rally, the authorities released extracts from computer messages which, it is claimed, outline plans for the alleged insurrection.

Reports here yesterday said some of the documents the police seized had been sent to the ANC offices in London and dealt with guerrilla training there. It was suggested that, if Mrs Thatcher were convinced that the documents were genuine and regarded the allegations as serious, the ANC could be forced to close its London offices.

Police give details of 'plot' meeting

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN JOHANNESBURG

SELECTED extracts from computer messages which, it is claimed, detail plans for an armed insurrection by African National Congress/South African Communist Party guerrillas were released at the weekend by the South African authorities.

Security police said that a scribbled computer code found in a raid on an house in Durban enabled them to call up and print out some 4,000 pages of documents. They include the minutes of a meeting of senior Communist party members at Tongaat, on the coast north of Durban, on May 19 and 20, two weeks after the talks between the ANC and the government in Cape Town at which both sides pledged to seek peaceful solutions.

One of those attending the meeting, identified as Comrade Joe, is quoted as saying: "Those who do not sign a ceasefire are not bound by the terms of it." Another extract quotes Comrade Gene: "The ph (point) has said that we should not stuff out the armed struggle... The legal space now creates the possibility of this kind of uprising much more than ever before. With the prospect of building a self-defence structure - which becomes a people's militia under the guise of self-defence units - such a force is available should the talks go wrong or the right wing goes on the offensive."

The implication is that Comrade Joe is Joe Slovo. Nelson Mandela said on British television on Saturday night that Mr Slovo's passport showed he had left South Africa on May 15 and returned on May 21. In an interview on Channel Four's *The World This Week* programme, Mr Mandela said the Tongaat meeting was of ordinary cadres of the SACP and not a policy-making body.



Pot parade: Bangladesh children wading through floods to collect clean drinking water from a relief centre in Sirajganj, 65 miles from Dhaka, after wells were contaminated. Officials say 44 people died in flood accidents

Singh's deputy hits out as Delhi feuds sharpen

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE prime minister of India, Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has come under unprecedented attack from his ambitious deputy, who called him weak and spineless, as the divided government moved into a new bout of potentially disastrous faction fighting.

Devi Lal, the deputy prime minister, seems to have decided on open warfare against Mr Singh. Power must move into the hands of those who deserve it, Mr Lal said.

Mr Singh has remained silent, but there are many who think the elderly Jat leader has gone too far. In addition to criticising the prime minister, he has openly accused two fellow cabinet ministers of corruption.

He made public his letter to Mr Singh levelling detailed accusations against the ministers, who believe Mr Lal is a serious embarrassment to the government and should go. "Immorality and impropriety are being committed under our very noses," the deputy prime minister said.

Behind the accusation, however, lies another piece of political intrigue. Mr Lal's allegations were based on a document since revealed as a forgery. If the *Indian Express* is to be believed, Mr Lal may have had the forgery made himself, presumably to back his campaign against the two ministers.

The document was supposedly written by Mr Singh in 1987. It was written on paper with the letterhead: "Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Member of Parliament, 28 Lodhi Estate, New Delhi". Mr Singh did not move into that address until the following year. The prime minister has told Mr Lal he did not write the document. He is now anxious to establish who was responsible, and has reportedly set up an internal enquiry.

Mr Lal's principal cabinet foes are Arun Nehru, the commerce minister, and Arif Mohammad Khan, the energy

minister, both of whom led a recent spate of ministerial resignations aimed at forcing Mr Lal's son to step down as chief minister of Haryana state.

Mr Nehru, in turn, has become increasingly disenchanted with the prime minister and his handling of key issues such as Kashmir, Punjab and price rises. It is widely rumoured that he might switch back to the opposition Congress (I) party.

Mr Lal accused the right-wing Hindu nationalist group, the Bharatiya Janata party, of secretly "ganging up" with Mr Nehru and others to destabilise the coalition government. He said Mr Nehru was trying to make a deal with Rajiv Gandhi, the opposition leader.

Mr Gandhi has been watching the growing split in the National Front government, and has warned party workers to prepare for a snap election. He is trying to build a new popular image by making train journeys across India, ostensibly travelling second-class and eating with his fingers out of leaf plates.

He finds it difficult to communicate, however, since he speaks a textbook Hindi and does not readily understand regional variations of the language. He thus emphasises the image of aloofness he is trying to dispel.

He has promised that the party will hold elections in March to select its state, district and village officials - the first attempt to introduce democracy in 18 years. Top posts have always been filled by nomination or appointment, demoralising rank-and-file workers and leaving the party over-centralised.

GAUHATI: Separatists in the northeastern Indian state of Assam freed three hostages yesterday in exchange for the release of three jailed colleagues, police said.

They said H.K.L. Das, general manager of a government-owned oil refinery, his son, aged 21, and his driver were freed after 14 days' captivity. At the time of yesterday's prisoner-hostage swap, suspected militants killed a senior policeman, Superintendent Daulat Singh Negi, who was on a separatist hit list. His bodyguard also died. (Reuters)

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Threat of Asean boat people ban averted

By ANDREW MCEWEN

A THREAT by Southeast Asian nations to stop Vietnamese boat people from landing in their countries has been temporarily averted, after a concession by the United States and an offer of help from the European Community.

But while the moves have bought time, the patience of the six-nation Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) remains close to breaking. The issue dominated three days of talks in Jakarta between Asean foreign ministers and the countries' main trade partners - the US, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Australia and the EC.

Further talks fail to produce an agreement, Asean may drop the principle of first asylum, which allows boat people to land pending resettlement. "The burden of boat people on first asylum countries is getting to the point where it is almost unbearable, politically and economically," Ali Alatas, the Indonesian foreign minister, said.

Observers felt that the talks would have broken down but for a concession by James Baker, the US Secretary of State. Previously, Washington insisted that boat people should not be sent back to Vietnam without their consent, but Mr Baker widened this to include those who offer no physical resistance.

Britain, Hong Kong and the Asean countries have rejected this as a solution, but are ready to continue talking. They believe that the threat of forced repatriation is the only deterrent that will stop boat people leaving Vietnam.

Britain yesterday welcomed the EC offer to help pay for resettling those sent back.

trip on Saturday by the Saudi foreign minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal.

Meanwhile, Kuwait said yesterday that it still hoped reconciliation talks with Iraq would go ahead and lead to a settlement of all differences between the two countries. A government spokesman in Kuwait quoted by the official Kuwait News Agency confirmed for the first time that Crown Prince Sheikh Saad al-Sabah, who is also prime minister, would lead Kuwait's delegation to the talks.

Diplomats said hardline Iraqi conditions that effectively asked Kuwait to accept Baghdad's claims on disputed territory and compensation for alleged financial losses were unacceptable to its smaller neighbour.

King Hussein of Jordan flew to Kuwait and Baghdad yesterday in a last-minute effort to save the talks after a similar

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Peking blow to Hong Kong passport plan

By ANDREW MCEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN'S policy of giving Hong Kong residents the confidence to stay in the colony after it reverts to China in 1997 has been undermined by a sharp attack by Peking.

British ministers have argued for more than a year that key people would stay in the colony if they were given British passports as a form of insurance. But after a strongly worded statement from Peking, it seems likely the 50,000 Hong Kong residents to be given passports are likely to want to settle in Britain before the 1997 deadline.

Peking rejected overtures by Francis Maude, former Foreign Office minister of state, asking it to soften its objections to the British Nationality Bill, which completed its passage through Westminster last week.

After a friendly reception in Peking, Mr Maude flew home on Saturday believing he had made some progress. China had not changed its views but seemed to be putting less emphasis on the issue.

The Chinese statement contradicted this. Peking said it would not recognise the passports and would refuse to allow those holding them to be given British consular protection either on the mainland or in Hong Kong after 1997. The passports would not be valid for entering or leaving what will become the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong.

George Foulkes, Labour's spokesman on Asia, said yesterday: "It is a very great snub for Mr Maude. If there is any softening it is in Francis's brain, rather than in the Chinese attitude."

Labour has previously emphasised the risk that the 50,000 people and their families would settle in Britain. Mr Foulkes said yesterday Peking's statement made this not a risk but a near-certainty. The government sought to play down China's reaction by saying it had been in response to a reporter's question and was not therefore a statement. It was, however, reported by the official New China News Agency, which reflects Chinese government policy.

Whitehall sources said no minister was prepared to comment on Peking's remarks and also said the statement contained nothing new. While this was true, ministers had privately acknowledged before the visit that what mattered was the tone of any Chinese statement.



Foulkes: saw statement as great snub to Maude

It is understood that Mr Maude was advised not to expect China to drop its objections, at least in public. There was, however, a good chance that they would press them less forcefully, and a hope that they might say nothing further in public.

Lang, London representative of Hong Kong's legislators, said the statement was "very unhelpful" and predicted that some people who had intended to apply for passports with a view to staying in Hong Kong would now do so with the intention of leaving. Others would apply now but leave the decision on staying or leaving for another five years.

Martin Lee, a Hong Kong lawyer and legislator, said Peking's statement was a slap in the face for Mr Maude and would affect not only applicants for the new passports but anyone living in Hong Kong and holding a British passport. They would have to leave before 1997 because there would be no way to distinguish them from holders of the new passport. La Ping, vice-director of Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the Chinese State Council, has discounted this, describing it as no more than a technical problem.

Jail protest over release of terrorists

Paris - The presidential pardon of a convicted Middle East terrorist provoked protest movements at four French prisons where inmates refused to return to their cells after exercises.

Five staff at Caen prison in Normandy were slightly injured in incidents sparked by the pardon, prison officials said. Several hundred inmates at other prisons also refused to return to their cells, but calm was restored by yesterday morning.

Officials said the prisoners protested at President Mitterrand's pardon on Friday of Anis Naccache and four accomplices, convicted of the 1989 failed assassination of the former Iranian prime minister, Shapour Bakhtiar. (AP)

Peasants march

Mexico City - Thousands of peasants arrived here at the end of a 10-day protest march to press demands for land and price supports for small farmers. Police said as many as 20,000 peasants joined the 185-mile trek from Poza Rica, Veracruz, on the country's Gulf coast. (Reuters)

Border ambush

Srinagar - Indian security forces ambushed a group of Kashmiri militants crossing from Pakistan-held territory and killed 12, a spokesman said. He said that seven militants were also captured alive. (Reuters)

Peru pledges

Lima - Alberto Fujimori was sworn in as president of Peru as troops and tanks guarded the capital against the threat of left-wing rebel attacks. Señor Fujimori announced plans to reverse a law that had nationalised private banks and to create a committee that would combat government corruption. (AFP)

Bishops protest

Abidjan - Roman Catholic bishops in Ivory Coast issued a pastoral letter criticising widespread corruption. The bishops alleged that "immense riches" have been lost by mismanagement and diversion of public funds. (AP)

Freighter slick

Athens - An oil slick 45 miles long and 30 ft wide was left in the wake of an Indian freighter off the coast of the Aegean Sea, the Greek merchant marine ministry said. The captain of the freighter, the *Damotari Coveri*, was arrested. (AFP)

Israeli police arrest eight as beach bomb kills teenager

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN JERUSALEM

EIGHT Palestinians were detained by the Israeli police yesterday after a home-made pipe bomb exploded on a crowded Tel Aviv beach, killing a 17-year-old Canadian girl and wounding 18 other sunbathers.

The victim of Saturday's attack was Marnie Kimmelman, of Willowdale, near Toronto, who was with a Jewish tour group. She died after surgery for stomach wounds at Ichilov hospital, Tel Aviv. The 18 injured, including three from Miss Kimmelman's youth party, were released after treatment, but hospitals detained an Arab who was hit over the head in one of several attacks by revenge-seeking Israelis.

Saturday's home-made bomb was hidden in a beach bag placed between two chairs near a lifeguard station. One of the suspects was seen fleeing at the time. The bomb was the latest in a series that have exploded in Israel since May 20, the day an Israeli man opened fire on Arab workers, killing seven of them. Arab militants vowed to avenge the deaths.

Miss Kimmelman was the fourth foreign national to die in violence stemming from the Palestinian revolt against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where all eight suspects come from.



Beach of mourning: friends of Marnie Kimmelman, killed by a terrorist bomb, remember her yesterday

Gun fever rages in summertime New York

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

IN A scene that could have come from a gangster film, four mourners dropped the flowers they were holding at a New York funeral on Saturday and sprayed the crowd with machine-gun fire, wounding seven people.

The cemetery shooting in suburban Linden, New Jersey, capped a week in which violence in New York appeared to have entered a new phase. Three children were shot dead in separate incidents, hit by stray bullets from gunfights, and police reported that dealers in "crack" cocaine had taken to staging old-fashioned duels at dawn.

About 100 people were at the funeral of Vinh Vu, the leader of a

Chinatown gang called "Born to Kill", when the gunmen approached, apparently to pay their last respects.

"As they walked by the casket with a bouquet of flowers, they dropped them and opened fire," said Captain Raymond Beckman of the local police. The men used a shotgun and three Uzi automatics. Police said it was surprising that only seven were wounded.

Mr Vu was murdered in Manhattan early on Wednesday. Detectives said his "crew" was feuding with a Little Italy gang.

Meanwhile, Mayor David Dinkins and other officials attended the funeral of Veronica Corrales, aged nine, who was shot in the head in her parents' car in Brooklyn.

Two other children and two adults were also killed by stray bullets in the last four days from the wild gunfire that has become routine in parts of Brooklyn, the Bronx and Manhattan.

In the small Brooklyn district of East New York, 22 people were killed in the first three months of this year. Mayor Owens, the local congressman, called on the governor, Mario Cuomo, last week to send the National Guard to restore order. Local newspapers have exhausted the vocabulary of war to describe conditions inside the big Brooklyn and Bronx housing estates.

According to police, teenage "crack" dealers duel at dawn on roofs and in deserted yards. Opponents walk towards each other, guns down,

until each reaches a painted line. The lines are 20 yards apart. They are then free to fire any weapon and move in any direction. Referees observe to bind a wall of concrete blocks. If a duellist raises his weapon, a referee reaching the painted line, the referee shoots him.

The Brooklyn gun duels start among Jamaican "crack" dealers and have spread over the past month adding to the record murder rate in the city this year. Six people, on average are killed every day.

Jimmy Breslin, the New York commentator, reported yesterday that "crack" dealers had met on Friday to agree that women, including those who are pregnant, would be allowed to take part in duels.

Party pledges

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a vintage sewing machine, viewed from the side. The machine is dark, with bright highlights on its metallic parts, including the hand, foot, and various adjustment knobs. The background is a light, textured surface.

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Thwarting the Labour guns

Ronald Butt

The shrinking of Labour's lead in the opinion polls underlines the fact that the politicians have left Westminster with the prospects for the general election wide open. Minor embarrassments of one sort or another have followed the government to the brink of the recess and the all-important constraint of inflation still overhangs Mrs Thatcher's future.

Yet Labour is still not fully trusted and faces in Mrs Thatcher the most remarkable combination of conviction with political flexibility since the war. Her ability to temper her principles with whatever shifts of position she thinks necessary to maintain her hold on power is quite exceptional. This is not ignoble power grabbing for its own sake. It reflects rather a missionary spirit which persuades her that she is the best person to do what has to be done whatever it happens to be. She has something of the same spirit of being called to the job, adopting whatever improvisations are necessary, as animated Simon de Montfort and Oliver Cromwell. What she is persuaded is right to be done is right to be done.

None of this diminishes her attachment to the basic market principles for which she took over the Tory leadership. Temperamentally she needs to work from firm rules and to have around her those who reinforce them with evidence and dogma. But she is not in thrall to them. The distancing of 10 Downing Street over the weekend from the anathemas pronounced by Sir Alan Walters against the European exchange rate mechanism illustrates the point.

Mrs Thatcher has now genuinely let herself be persuaded by the weight of her cabinet colleagues' opinion that Britain must join, and although the government still waits for "the time to be right", that is no longer a simple escape clause. Sir Alan is therefore simply being awkward in continuing to recite his creed. Mrs Thatcher's attitude is reminiscent of an episode shortly after she first gained power when she advised a questioner on a particular topic to talk to a certain industrialist who was then much in favour. A couple of years later, when the opinion of that industrialist was put to her, she was dismissive, remarking simply: "He only sings one tune."

Contrary to appearances, singing one tune is not her own practice. She can change key, improvise and add counterpoint to a degree which subordinates the main theme if that is necessary. That is good Tory practice. Alistair Home's biography of Harold Macmillan describes how that prime minister's father-in-law, the old Whiggish Duke of Devonshire, grumbled on the grouse-moor: "These damned grouse, they won't fly straight — like a lot of Tories! But there is no merit for a political party in lining up neatly for the benefit of the enemy's guns, and Mrs Thatcher is Tory enough not to do

it. Conservatives know that there are no final answers in politics, only temporary solutions which bring new problems. It is this pragmatism, with Mrs Thatcher adding her gift of willpower to the cabinet consensus on responding to current challenges, that constitutes Mr Kinnock's biggest danger.

His own party is of a very different sort. Its roots have always been nourished by an ideology which has been systematically demolished over the past three or four years. Almost the entire output of information from Labour has been designed to reassure the voting public about what it would not do. It would not renationalise (or at least, not so as to be noticed), would not restore the trade unions' power over workers, would not leave the European Community (but would be more European than the Tories), would not impose controls over capital or industry and would not unilaterally renounce the nuclear deterrent.

Perhaps most important in electoral terms, it would not add to the taxes of the majority. Or would it? In reality, it hardly seems credible for Labour to outbid the Tories on the public services — which is its main point of attraction — without either putting up taxes in some form or another for those who are not, by any objective test, rich (those earning just plus or minus £20,000), or by causing inflationary pressures. If anything, the inflationary constraints troubling Mrs Thatcher will pose even greater difficulties for Labour, and much ambiguity still hangs over its intentions to make life better by higher public spending.

Of all Labour's potential commitments, only one seems quite clear: the return to the rates in place of the poll tax. But although the poll tax was misbegotten and remains unpopular, the rates in their day were unpopular too. Who, therefore, is to say whether Labour will gain or lose more on balance by this commitment, which will probably help mostly those who are already committed to the party, while alienating many floaters who find that under the poll tax they are marginally better off?

Above all, there still exists in the town halls and on Labour benches active representatives of the old Labour party who resent the dismantling of socialism, whether in their own party or in Eastern Europe. The Tories have no equivalent of the enemy within to disturb their image, though they do have a risk of splitting on principle over Europe.

Mrs Thatcher therefore still holds the initiative. Though Labour has decided what it must do, it is still unsure about what it dare do. The Tories will not fly straight to make targets for Labour's guns (their trouble have made them anything but suicidal) and Mrs Thatcher and her new cabinet consensus still have the potential for a fourth victory.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

I still can't believe it. Ever since I read it I have been searching for another interpretation. Was it meant ironically? Could it have been taken as a sad comment on our times? But no, I have looked at the thing from every angle, and I can reach no conclusion other than that the following article, which appeared in one of Britain's major newspapers, was intended as a serious report: to be taken straight. It is quoted here in full:

CLINT'S REAL LIFE BRUSH WITH DEATH
Clint Eastwood came within seconds of death in a bizarre fatal accident on a Los Angeles film location. The 59-year-old star, who was directing and co-starring in the film *The Rookie*, was almost hit by a window cleaner who plunged to his death from the roof of a nearby building.

A production executive said: "Just a second after Clint stepped away, the guy on the roof fell and landed right on the spot where he had been standing. I can't see how he could have survived the impact if the guy had hit him."

And that was all. It reminded me of Seltan, the horse which was not killed in the Hyde Park bombing when several guardsmen were. A biography of this horse has been written, and, out to pasture, he is not visited by the public. "Never Mind the Titanic," runs the familiar graffiti, "what news of the iceberg?"

RSPCA SLAMS ROYAL CRUELTY TO HORSES

Equestrians were divided last night in the wake of sharp RSPCA criticism of military practices which left at least one horse unaccounted for after the Battle of Bosworth Field on Tuesday.

Evidence is mounting that its rider, King Richard III of Tower Hamlets, abandoned the beast when it got into difficulties. According to one eyewitness report, Richard, 39, was seen wandering in a confused state, muttering: "A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse!"

"He had shamefully abused one horse already," said angry RSPCA officials. "All he seemed to care about was where he could get another. This only strengthens a sad comment on our times."

DESERT BUSHFIRE
Egyptian police are still trying to solve the riddle of a bush which was found burning over the weekend, threatening surrounding scrubland.

According to one Israeli source, Moses, the bush "spontaneously ignited". However, sources close to Pharaoh discount the rumour. They say: "It is highly irresponsible to engage in supernatural title-tattle at a time when the scrub is under-dry after the recent drought and plague of locusts. This blaze could have spread. Setting fire to bushes is no way to make political capital."

MISSING ASP SOUGHT
Anxious animal-lovers are this morning refusing to call off the search for a pet snake accidentally released after a domestic incident in Alexandria.

Red-faced zoo experts told of the mix-up in which the creature was apparently concealed in a basket of figs and smuggled away by a clown acting on an assignment. "We are talking about an endangered viper," said one conservationist. "They don't eat figs. And it is just not good enough to call the species 'pretty worm of Nilus' as this ignorant woman, Cleopatra, is reported to have done before clapping it to her bosom. Bombs can be fatal to these asp."

ARROW FOUND
Hastings, Thursday. An arrow has been discovered in an unusual location. The missile, which belonged to a French tourist, M. Guillaume, on a day-trip from Normandy, has been returned to its delighted owner. "I am très content to 'ave this cherished flèche back in my quiver," said an overjoyed M. Guillaume. "It has — 'ow do you say? — sentimental appeal."

The arrow was found stuck in the face of the late Harold Saxton, of no fixed address.

Michael Dynes, transport correspondent, suggests a compromise in the rail freight dispute

Mainline thrust at the juggernaut

With the Channel tunnel due to link the British and continental road and rail networks three years from now, the spectre of a big increase in heavy lorry traffic on our already congested motorways is worrying a growing number of politicians, industrialists and local authorities.

They fear that the development of Europe's trans-continental rail freight distribution system will stop at Folkestone, where, because of government reluctance to sanction sufficient public investment in new railway infrastructure, freight brought into Britain by rail will be switched to road.

According to these critics, Britain will then become paralysed by traffic jams, scorned by its continental counterparts and deserted by those businesses able to relocate on the continent, until it is finally marginalised on the fringe of Europe.

Although such warnings may be tinged with a little hyperbole, there will certainly be a big increase in cross-Channel freight. The European Community now accounts for about 60 per cent by value of all Britain's imports and exports, more than 90 per cent of which is moved to and from the ports by

road. The single market will lead to a further increase in EC trade which could put an intolerable strain on Britain's motorways.

To provide through freight services to and from continental destinations, British Rail plans to invest £310 million in electric locomotives and freight wagons and to upgrade existing lines. With this investment, BR hopes to capture 6.7 per cent of the market, doing away with 400,000 lorry journeys per year.

The problem is that Britain's loading gauge, which governs the height and width of the loads that trains can take through tunnels, under bridges and past lineside structures, is considerably smaller than on the continent. So continental freight will have to be transported in smaller units if it is to run on British lines. One partial solution is to put smaller wheels on the wagons, enabling BR to use continental-sized freight wagons.

Although presenting other technical problems — excessive track friction, weight restrictions and dangers from braking at speed — this would be better than doing nothing at all, but does not address the problem of greater wagon width. So even if smaller wheels were adopted, BR could still lose

freight traffic to the roads. Privately, BR officials admit they are prisoners of history, and victims of the government's stringent investment requirements. Railway lines in Kent — where loading gauge difficulties are particularly acute — were built on the cheap, and because BR always expected to remain isolated from continental railways, there seemed little point in changing them.

Exasperated by what is widely seen as the government's failure to take advantage of the Channel tunnel by equipping Britain with a high-speed passenger line between Folkestone and London, together with new freight lines built on a gauge that accommodates continental traffic, John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, last week outlined a £5 billion rail scheme, designed to spread the benefits of the tunnel throughout Britain.

The proposals were immediately denounced by Cecil Parkinson, the transport secretary, as being "highly expensive and hugely uneconomic". Admittedly, the proposals were short on detail. No revenue forecasts were provided, and the absence of a cost breakdown led some observers to suspect the project could just as

easily end up with a price tag of £25 billion as £5 billion.

However, Mr Prescott's proposals did strike a chord among industry and commerce, whose spokesmen are increasingly concerned that the absence of long-term transport planning will place Britain, especially outside the south-east, at a serious disadvantage to its continental competitors. In the words of one transport analyst: "BR does not set policy, the government does, and it doesn't."

Between Mr Parkinson's rigid adherence to free-market principles and Mr Prescott's demand for billions of pounds of investment in railway infrastructure, there lies a third possibility, hitherto overlooked by the participants in the road-rail debate. According to BR's own calculations, the cost of converting to French gauge the existing lines between Folkestone and London, and the east and west coast main lines to Edinburgh and Glasgow, is £600 million.

But this cost would be too large for BR to justify commercially. Even if it were allowed to breach the 8 per cent return on investment demanded by the Treasury, investment costs would still have

to be passed on to customers, forcing rail freight prices up, thus pushing freight back on to the roads again. Conversion could occur only if it was funded by the taxpayer, and this is prohibited by section 42 of the Channel Tunnel Act.

Making such a project work would require a radical change in government attitudes towards the railways. BR has to provide a service that will be sufficiently cheap and reliable to persuade manufacturers to use freight trains rather than drive off-shore shuttle trains. That means making key lines compatible with continental gauges. The prize for BR could be the total loads of one million lorry journeys to and from the tunnel a year, against its present modest target of 400,000.

The project would have to be paid for by government, possibly with some assistance from Brussels. But that is appropriate, for the public interest is involved. It would provide a more cost-effective and environmentally sensitive way of reducing motorway congestion and promoting regional access to the continental rail network than either the action or over-commitment currently on offer.

Adding the echo of a 1952 murder trial to his armoury, Bernard Levin points an accusing finger at Britain's much-vaunted police and judiciary

I remember the Craig-Bentley case for a number of reasons, but one is dominant: I do not exaggerate when I say that it significantly helped to shape my life and work. At the time of the events, which were late 1952, I was just starting my career as a journalist, but so little footing did I have that I was not at all certain that I had found my métier, or even, if I had, whether I wanted to pursue it.

The seed which the case planted for me might have borne fruit in one of many professions, and of course there is no need to make such a connection at all; many people, following the case, must have had an identical reaction, without any continuing effect. But from that day forth, I have never allowed myself to believe in the myth — perpetuated in and by our legal process — of the unstained, unblemished Olympian judge, raised high above the courtroom to seek justice and promulgate it. In the Craig-Bentley case, so shameless was the bias of the judge (Lord Chief Justice Goddard), not only in his summing-up but in his entire handling of the proceedings, that my image of the Bench was transformed.

Silly people, lawyers mostly, say that I hate the Bar and the Bench alike. I hate neither; but since 1952 I have looked at both with a profound scepticism, and whenever I feel the scepticism wavering, I recall the sickening eulogy which Denning pronounced from the bench, obiter, at the time of Goddard's death in 1971, and the scepticism bleeds afresh. (The scepticism needed no encouragement when Lord Donaldson raised that delightful cloud of implausible composites to avoid being questioned by the May committee on the Maguire case.)

I had no better explanation what all this was about.

Christopher Craig, though only 16, was a hardened villain; Derek Bentley, who was 19 and border-

line mentally defective, was very much under Craig's thumb. They went to rob a warehouse; someone saw them and called the police. Bentley gave himself up at once, and from then on was in custody. Craig drew a revolver, and a gun-battle with the police ensued; one of the officers was shot dead.

Although Bentley was under arrest throughout, and had no gun, he was charged with murder along with Craig, largely because it was said that he shouted "Let him have it" to Craig, thus encouraging Craig to kill. There was a counter-argument for the meaning of the words; instead of the slang use of the term, it could be held that Bentley was urging Craig to surrender the weapon. In any case, Bentley denied saying the words at all. Both were convicted.

The death penalty was then still in force; Craig was below the age at which criminals could be executed, but Bentley was a year over it, and was sentenced to death. It was widely assumed that the sentence would be commuted; even Goddard recommended clemency. But the home secretary was the dreadful Maxwell Fyfe, and Bentley was hanged.

Many books have been written about the case; there was even a play, by Ludovic Kennedy. (I was watching *Ludo* over the head the other day, on the subject of euthanasia, but my admiration for his work in righting judicial wrongs is unqualified.) Gradually, as more and more has come to light, it has begun to seem that Bentley's hanging was a gross miscarriage of justice. There is now more evidence that Bentley did not say the vital but ambiguous words; more important, it is claimed that the bullet which killed PC Miles could not have fitted Craig's gun, but could have been fired from a police revolver, thus turning murder into a tragic and terrible accident.

I dwell on this 37-year-old wrong for a reason. Though Bentley is beyond any more pain, his sister, supported by the forensic critics, has now presented the case to the Home Office, seeking, with fresh evidence, posthumous rehabilitation for the hanged man.

My regular readers will know that I hold the belief that there is no act so outrageous, no cover-up so shameful, no concealment of the truth so indefensible, that the Home Office would shrink from it. If you think that that is coming it is a bit strong, read a few of the books about the Timothy Evans case. (*Ludo* wrote one of those, too; the home secretary, when it became clear that John Christie had committed the murders for which Evans had been hanged,



was Maxwell Fyfe, who presided over a cover-up.) There were people in the Home Office at that time who should have faced prosecution, for the crime of perverting the course of justice.

So I do not hold out great hopes for the Bentley family and their pitiful quest. I cannot, of course, comment on the *Randolph-Pottle* case, because it is still going on, but I can remind you that earlier in the proceedings, when the defence needed a document which the Home Office was trying to keep hidden, David Waddington, the home secretary, had to be ordered by the judge to produce it. That sort of conduct is what Bentley are up against; it would not surprise me in the least if the

wrong for a reason. Though Bentley is beyond any more pain, his sister, supported by the forensic critics, has now presented the case to the Home Office, seeking, with fresh evidence, posthumous rehabilitation for the hanged man.

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Kinnock's yen to get up and go

Because the headlines were dominated by the Ridley affair and the release of Daphne Parish from an Iraqi jail, Neil Kinnock was denied the publicity mileage he hoped for during his recent trip to Washington. Now, as the suspicion spreads abroad that Mrs Thatcher might not be eternally invincible after all, he is looking for another field to conquer. But where?

Russia is the obvious place for a high-profile visit in which Kinnock could spread his international-statesman wings before the world's television cameras. But that is just not on. President Gorbachev's problems are piling up on so many fronts he would barely have time to shake Kinnock by the hand and ask after his good friend at Number Ten.

Looking further east, though, is one country which Kinnock aides consider ideal for his purpose and where discreet hints are already being dropped: Japan. Kinnock is keen to meet the prime minister, Toshiki Kaifu, and business leaders to discuss Japanese investment in Britain. Japanese firms already employ 9,000 people in Wales, 500 of them in his own Islwyn constituency. To come back with even a hint that another few billion yen might soon be on the way would give a boost to Labour's still substantial but declining lead over the Tories.

The omens for a visit are good. The Japanese press, influenced by the way President Bush received him as a potential prime minister, is taking a closer interest in

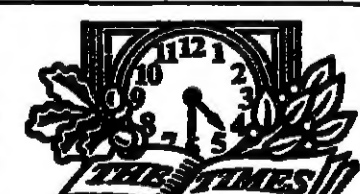
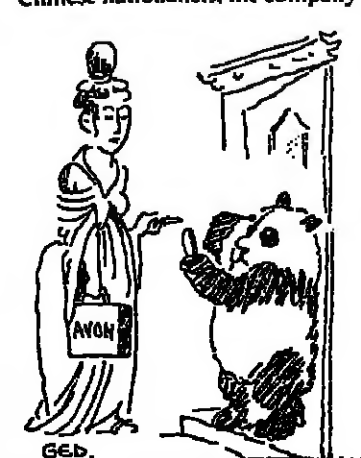
Labour's economic policies, and Kinnock personally. David Morris, of the Anglo-Japanese Economic Institute, says: "The Japanese are a naturally curious people. They would like to know more about the man and what he stands for."

There is, though, one stumbling block. However curious they may be, they have yet to invite him. Come on, boy, ring the embassy and put on that Welsh charm. There could be an invitation in the post tomorrow.

China dolls

Whether Kinnock makes it or not, Avon will soon be calling further afield. The American cosmetics giant famous for its Avon Lady is now recruiting 3,000 women — with a target of 6,000 by the end of the year — to knock on some of China's millions of doors.

With Avon ladies well established in other Asian countries, including Taiwan, bastion of the Chinese nationalists, the company



DIARY

foresees no problem in hiring its hard-sell ladies — "The Chinese are natural merchants" — or persuading Chinese womanhood that its products are one manifestation of western decadence they cannot be without.

Initially, China's Avon ladies will tote a mere 50 products, as opposed to the 600 that those in the West have on offer; though the number will gradually increase. It all goes to show that despite Tiananmen Square, China is experiencing changes that are not just cosmetic.

Short-changed

More drama in the usually quiet world of chess. If Britain produced two potential Wimbledon champions — unlikely it is true, but just suppose — and they were drawn against each other in the first round not once but two years in succession, there would be a row of McEnroe-style proportions. But that is what has happened in the world chess finals, in which Britain has two representatives, grandmasters Nigel Short and Jon Speelman. The last time they at least got beyond the preliminary

round before the World Chess Federation brought them face to face. "This time it's even worse, it's the last 14, as opposed to the last eight," says Speelman, who won the last showdown before losing to Jan Timman of Holland.

The tournament pairings are determined by the federation on current world ratings, but Speelman believes another system should be adopted to keep national representatives apart. Raymond Keene, the *Times* chess correspondent, says: "It's ludicrous. If this were any other sport there would be a national cup. Now that Keene has delivered his dossier on the suspected missing murder victim, he might perhaps lean on the British Chess Federation as a first step to an international campaign."

● The news that the government is to cut British armed forces in Germany by 50 per cent will come as no surprise to the Adam Smith Institute, which recommended such cuts in September 1983. At the time the prime minister said the Institute was very important, but "it does not decide British policy". In the end it seems to.

Rattling skeleton

Will the elevation of the archipelago to the government whips office inspire the very backbench rebellion his promotion was intended to avoid? Young's move was the biggest surprise of the reshuffle, and was seen by some MPs as an olive branch to Tory poll-tax rebels. But Young has also been noted for strong attacks on the government's failure to uprate child benefit in line with inflation.

Eastwardly mobile

The free market in all its manifestations is taking hold in Russia. In September the Almar Theatre Company is taking to Moscow an updated production of Mayakovsky's 1928 play *The Bedbug*, portraying a type still to be found by the drove in the hard-pressed City. "Our version of Mayakovsky's play is set in the present," says Helena Uren, director of the company. "Prisypkin is a yuppie. He is a member of the Beatles fan club and very keen on clothes. But he's a bit gauche. He often wears two ties and hasn't quite got his act together."

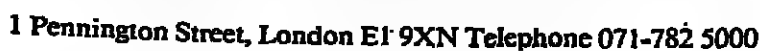
The play charts Prisypkin's progress, his love of everything western, and his marriage to a manicurist. "But our version is very true to Mayakovsky's original satire. We're waving a sign to the Russians, warning them not to embrace yuppieism. It's a modern morality play," says Uren. The play will be performed for two weeks in English at the Moscow University Theatre. Whether the Russians will get the message is a matter for conjecture.

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TRINIDAD

THE SW

BLACK



Haslemere, Surrey.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

July 28: The Duchess of York this afternoon opened the 1990 World Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Games.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire (Commander the Hon John Fremantle, RN).

Mrs John Floyd and Captain Alexander Ballie-Hamilton

were in attendance.

The Princess Royal, President, Equestre Internationale, returned after attending the World Equestrian Games.

Mrs Timothy Holderness-Roddam was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron and Trustee of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, will meet members of the scheme's golf society at their inaugural meeting and open the new course at Wentworth Golf Club at 11.00, and will attend part of the CAB (Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux) International Review Conference at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre at 1.45.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen

Mother will embark in HMV Britannia at Portsmouth at 4.20.

Princess Margaret, as President of the Girl Guides Association, will visit the Scouts and Guides International Camp 1990 at Chatsworth Park at 1.00.

The Duke of Kent, as Patron of Kent CCC, will visit the club in Canterbury at 11.45 during their Cricket Week.

The Duchess of Kent will attend the YMCA's "Best of British Youth Awards" luncheon at the Savoy Hotel at 12.30.

Birthdays today

Mr Peter Bogdanovich, film director, writer and actor, 51; Miss Teresa Cull, opera singer, 46; Sir Edmund Compton, civil servant, 84; Mr Meredith Davies, former principal, Trinity College of Music, 66; Miss Frances de la Tour, actress, 46; Mr Justice Ewbank, 65; Mr D.H. Fraser, artist, 61; the Earl of Glasgow, 51; Lord Granley, 67; Miss Harriet Harman, 60; Mr Richard Johnson, actor, 63; Lord Killanin, 76; Miss Wynne Knowles, former editor, BDC, 80; Mrs Peter Plowley, general secretary, British Equity Association, 59; Sir Richard Powell, civil servant, 81; Mrs Anne Ridler, author, 78; Lord Justice Russell, 64; Sir Kerry St. John, former chairman, O.C. Containers, 59; Sir Clive Sinclair, chairman, Sinclair Research, 50; Mr Stan Stennett, actor, 63; Mr Daley Thompson, athlete, 32; Dame Marjorie Williamson, former principal, Royal Holloway College, 77.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Giorgio Vasari, artist and writer, Arezzo, Italy, 1511; Samuel Rogers, poet, Stoke Newington, Middlesex, 1763; Emily Brontë, Thornton, Yorkshire, 1818; Richard Burdon Haldane, Viscount Haldane, founder of the Territorial Army, Edinburgh, 1856; Henry Ford, Michigan, 1863; Henry Moore, Castleford, Yorkshire, 1898. DEATHS: William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, Ruscombe, Berkshire, 1718; Thomas Gray, London, 1771; Sir Charles Hastings, physician, founder of the British Medical Association, Worcester, 1866; Walter Pater, critic, Oxford, 1894; Otto von Bismarck, German chancellor 1871-90, Friedrichsruh, 1898; Sir Joseph Cook, prime minister of Australia 1913-14, Sydney, 1947.

Dr Philip Evans

A celebration of the life and work of Dr Philip Evans will be held on Monday, September 24, at noon, at Guy's Hospital Chapel, London, SE1. Please apply for tickets to Clinical Dean, UMDS, Guy's Hospital, London, SE1 9RT.

Marriages

Mr D. Ramsey and the Hon Alice Ramsey of Mar

The marriage took place on Saturday at St Peter's, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, of Mr David Ramsey, younger son of Mr and Mrs Ronald Ramsey, of St James, Barbours, to the Hon Alice Ramsey of Mar, second daughter of Captain Alexander Ramsey of Mar and Lady Saltoun, of Cairnbulg Castle, Fraserburgh. The Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney officiated, assisted by the Rev Richard Burki.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Louise Nicolson, Astrid von Preussen, Bridget von Preussen, Harry Campbell Lamerton and Eden Hanbury. Mr Christopher Hancock was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr F.J.S. Habgood and Miss M.T. Campbell

The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Nicholas, Siltou, near Gillingham, Dorset, of Mr Francis Habgood, elder son of the Archbishop of York and Mrs Habgood, of Bishopscote Palace, York, to Miss Nicolette Campbell, only daughter of Mr and Mrs C.M. Campbell, of Whitley, Wiltshire, near Gillingham. The Archbishop of York and the Rev W. Pugh officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Serena McQuade and Miss Dawn Marie Keightley. Dr Neil Rothemann was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent in France.

Mr R.W. Hollings and Miss C. Matthews

The marriage took place on Saturday at the Temple Church, London, of Mr Roger Hollings, only son of Sir Kenneth and Lady Hollings, of London, to Miss Camille Matthews, daughter of Dr and Mrs Gordon Matthews, of Queensland, Australia. Canon J. Robinson, Master of the Temple, officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Serena McQuade and Miss Dawn Marie Keightley. Dr Neil Rothemann was best man.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.J.C. Barnes and Miss S.C. Hoskin

The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of Dr and Mrs N.M.L. Barnes, of Kirdlington, Oxfordshire, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs B.D. Hoskin, of Flimsted, Hertfordshire.

Mr M.R. Friend and Miss C.V. Hutton

The engagement is announced between Matthew, younger son of Sir Clement and Lady Friend, of Wimpole Street, London, W1, and Caroline, only daughter of Mr Rupert Hutton, of Sao Romao, Portugal, and Mrs Malcolm Burr, of London, W.6.

Mr K.P. Goble and Miss S.C. Madden

The engagement is announced between Karl Peter, younger son of Mrs Nanette Alicia Byford, of Redditch, and the late Gordon Richard Goble, and Sue, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs William F. Madden, of Singapore.

Mr W.C. O'Brien and Miss C.M. Townley

The engagement is announced between William Crawford, son of Mr J.A. O'Brien and the late Mrs M.M. O'Brien, of The Old Vicarage, Swaffham, and Catherine Margaret, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs C.H.A. Townley, of Rotherham House.

attended by Helen Knight, Alexander Knight and Miss Jackie Whitchurch. Mr Richard Evans-Thompson was best man.

A reception was held at Middle Temple Hall and the honeymoon will be held in Australia.

Mr R.C.S. Palmer and Miss A.H. Marland

The marriage took place on Saturday at the Temple Church of Mr Richard Palmer, elder son of Mr and Mrs R.S. Palmer, of Ely, Cambridgeshire, to Miss Alice Marland, daughter of Sir Michael and Lady Marland, of London. Canon J. Robinson, Master of the Temple, officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Samantha Beckett, Charlotte Hodgson and Olivia Hodgson. Mr Jeremy Leach was best man.

Mr S.H. Holdsworth and Miss R.J. Hoppe

The marriage took place on Saturday, July 14, at Christ Church, West Wimbledon, London, of Mr Simon H. Holdsworth and Miss Rebecca J. Hoppe.

Mr G.C. Mann and Miss E.E. Wilkinson

The marriage took place on Saturday, July 28, 1990, at Beetham, Norfolk, of Mr Graham Mann and Miss Jayne Wilkinson.

Mr C.E.J. Wells and Miss L.L. Paul

The marriage took place on Saturday, July 28, at St Mary the Virgin Church, Dennington, of Mr Christopher Edward James Wells, son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Christopher Wells, of Bush Cottage, Thurston, Suffolk, and Miss Lavinia Christine Paul, younger daughter of the late Mr Roger H. Paul, of Brundish Lodge, Woodbridge, Suffolk. The Bishop of Chelmsford officiated assisted by the Rev Andrew Turner.

The bride was given in marriage by her brother Mr David Wells, and was attended by Miss Susan Macleod, Miss Philippa Wells, Georgia Collett, Poppy Paul and William Vanderstegen Drake. Mr Robert Comyn Boucher was best man.

The reception was held at Brundish Lodge and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

The bride was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Serena McQuade and Miss Dawn Marie Keightley. Dr Neil Rothemann was best man.

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OBITUARIES

DR BRUNO KREISKY

Dr Bruno Kreisky, Federal Chancellor of Austria from 1970 to 1983, died yesterday in Vienna aged 79. He was born on January 22, 1911.

BRUNO Kreisky was the man who put Austria back on the world map after the devastation of two lost world wars and a 10-year period of four-power occupation. Under his leadership beginning in April 1970, his forceful and often controversial style led to an increase of Austria's prestige abroad (with the notable exception of Israel) and helped crystallise the image of the new Austria which emerged after the demise of the Habsburg empire and the ill-fated alliance with Hitler's Germany.

Kreisky's style was a highly personal one. The country nicknamed him "The Sun King" — referring to France's Louis XIV — and he often behaved more like a monarch than like a democratic leader, although he deeply respected democratic principles. He found it difficult to tolerate strong personalities around him, either in his own government or in opposition, and was sensitive to criticism. He regarded the country's rejection, against his advice, of nuclear energy in 1978 as a personal defeat and left no stone unturned to get the decision reversed. But he was the benevolent leader whom the Austrian people badly needed, a man of authority and a respected international statesman. His foreign policy lifted Austria out of the doldrums of self-pity, and put it on the map as a country practising, to use Kreisky's words, "active neutrality", playing a key role between East and West, and indeed between North and South as well.

Born a son of a wealthy, upper-class Jewish family, he did not seem destined for politics. From the start, however, he was an active member of the Socialist party. While his friends were learning how to walk, he was at Socialist youth movement meetings. When the party was declared illegal in 1934 he joined the underground, and was arrested the following year and sentenced to 16 months' imprisonment for "high treason". Just before the Anschluss with Germany in 1938, the young Kreisky, whose Jewish origins were



becoming more and more of a hindrance although he was never a practising Jew, graduated from the law school at Vienna University. Shortly afterwards he was arrested. Several months later he was released provisionally, but was aware that a new arrest would follow soon. To avoid the fate of so many other Jews and socialists, Kreisky's friends helped him escape to Sweden, where he worked as a foreign correspondent. He also helped Austrian deserters who managed to reach Sweden. After the war he remained in Sweden, where he met his wife, Vera, until 1950 as a member of the Austrian embassy staff.

In 1951 he returned to Austria, taking the important post of deputy chief of cabinet in the Federal President's office. By 1953 he was Under Secretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and played a role in the final negotiations of the state treaty, which gave Austria its new, neutral and independent status. In 1959 he became Minister of Foreign Affairs in a coalition government. Concurrently he climbed to power within the Socialist party. He was elected to the

Austrian parliament in 1956, became Socialist party deputy chairman in 1959, and chairman and leader of the opposition in 1967. He kept the post of chairman, and used the joint roles of party chairman and Chancellor in order to cover activities, such as his initial Middle East policy, which he could not indulge in as Chancellor but which his function as vice-president of the Socialist International with special responsibility for the Middle East permitted.

Kreisky was elected Chancellor in a minority Socialist government for the first time in March 1970. In October 1971 he turned to the country and was re-elected with a majority. This majority was confirmed and increased in 1975 and 1979. Under Kreisky Austria enjoyed a period of prosperity, riding out a succession of economic world crises with relatively little harm. Inflation remained low, as did unemployment, although the price was an increasing national debt. One of the hardest currencies, and the country's stability became a vivid example for others. Social reforms were carried through vigorously, bringing

already in poor health, he resigned office in April 1983 after the Socialists failed to win an outright majority at general elections. Early in 1988 the former Chancellor publicly attacked President Waldheim of Austria in strong terms as the controversy raged over the latter's concealing his activities during the second world war.

Kreisky's free time was spent mostly on the Austrian ski-slopes or, more lately, at his summer house on Majorca.

DR ROMAN SAWICKI

Dr Roman Mieczyslaw Sawicki, FRS, entomologist at Rothamsted Experimental Station for many years, died on July 22 at the age of 60. He was born on April 20, 1930.

THROUGH his meticulous yet inspired research Roman Sawicki contributed to a much clearer understanding of the nature and causes of insecticide resistance in insects. He became a world leader in agricultural research and had travelled to Australia, India, the Middle East, North Africa and North America as a consultant. In Egypt he played a major role in designing a control strategy on cotton that has now operated successfully for 13 years and brought welcome relief from the relentless resistance that has plagued cotton production in the Nile Delta.

His abilities thus established, Sawicki was assigned to initiate work on the emerg-

ing and apparently insoluble problem of insecticide resistance. Refusing to accept that the only solution was a continuous supply of new insecticides, Sawicki set about his painstaking studies — he was habitually at the laboratory seven days a week — that were to involve genetic, toxicological and biochemical investigations coupled with field observations, first in eastern England and later all over the world. Sawicki established that resistance could be contained by control strategies involving selective and less intensive use of insecticides, leading to the now widely-accepted concept of insecticide resistance management.

His achievements were recognised by several awards, including election to Fellowship of the Royal Society in 1987. Quick and generous in

his acknowledgement of the important part played by his team of multidisciplinary scientific colleagues, he took considerable trouble to help plan and further their research careers.

Roman Sawicki was a private man but an amusing companion, whose enthusiasms included photography, natural history and classical music. His garden was his pride and joy. Persuaded against his better judgment to help at a public open day at Rothamsted, he soon abandoned his allotted task of explaining insecticide resistance and embarked on a highly successful gardening clinic.

He is survived by his widow, Micheline, and two daughters. He will be greatly missed by his friends and colleagues.

Nature notes

The common sandpiper
Some yellowhammers still have young in the nest, which is usually hidden in thick grass at the foot of a hedge. Bringing food, they often drop down from a telephone wire. Starlings are beginning to roost in flocks, wheeling in firwood or rhododendron plantations at sunset, and singing far into the night.

First waders drifting down from the north include silvery-grey, long-legged greenshanks, and common sandpipers with their flicking wingbeats as they glide away across the water.

A new flower on the roadside is upright hedge-parsley, like a pencil drawing of the much greener and leafier cow parsley that grows in the same places round the ripening fruits are like small red and yellow cherries; blackberries, still very small and green, are forming on the brambles. The conker shells on the horse-chestnuts are already fat and prickly.

Small skipper butterflies undulate over the knapweed and the wild basil; catbush moths, long-legged greenish-brown, feed on the scabious flowers while their orange and black caterpillars devastate the ragwort leaves.

DJM

Service dinner

160 Transport Regiment RCT (V)
Lieutenant-Colonel J. Astbury, Commanding Officer, and Officers of 160 Transport Regiment RCT (V) held a ladies' dinner on Saturday at Prince William of Gloucester Barracks, Grantham.

Austria closer to the level of other industrialised countries.

Kreisky's Jewish origins brought him many problems. He was the target of fierce criticism from Dr Simon Wiesenthal, the hunter of Nazi war criminals, whose Jewish Documentation Centre is located in Vienna, and who continuously pointed out that several of the ministers in successive Kreisky cabinets had a Nazi background. Kreisky's actively-pursued Middle East policy made him the first western leader to receive Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader, in 1980 and he granted the movement de facto diplomatic recognition. This brought down upon him the wrath of both the Israeli cabinet and opposition, and of the small remaining Jewish community in Austria. With Willy Brandt, Kreisky played a significant role through the Socialist International in the evolution of western Europe's Social Democratic parties towards a more even-handed approach to the Palestinian problem.

This kind of individual and often unpredictable activity was typical of Kreisky's foresight and of his courage in daring to go against the mainstream of opinion both at home and abroad. His journalist years left him with a sixth sense for publicity and, besides speaking at dictation speed, he made sure he remained in the limelight and on the front pages. He never let an opportunity pass in order to promote Austria's image abroad. Kreisky was one of the leading figures behind the 1977 Helsinki process to lower east-west tensions and his influence was also felt in Spain as the moderate Socialists readied themselves for office.

Already in poor health, he resigned office in April 1983 after the Socialists failed to win an outright majority at general elections. Early in 1988 the former Chancellor publicly attacked President Waldheim of Austria in strong terms as the controversy raged over the latter's concealing his activities during the second world war.

Kreisky's free time was spent mostly on the Austrian ski-slopes or, more lately, at his summer house on Majorca.

ELIZABETH ALLAN

Elizabeth Allan, the film and stage star and television personality of the 1950s, died aged 80 on July 27. She was born on April 9, 1910, though some sources give the year as 1908.

ELIZABETH Allan's first real impact as a screen actress came in 1932 in Alexander Korda's first British film, *Service for Ladies*, in which she co-starred with Leslie Howard as a rich woman who mistakenly thinks that the hotel waiter who is courting her is a prince. In the same year, she played opposite Ivor Novello in the remake of *The Lodger*, and appeared with John Gielgud in his second sound film, *Insult*. In May 1933 she signed a contract with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and quickly became one of the most popular British stars in Hollywood, among the first serious British actresses indeed in the 1930s to achieve this status there. She appeared in 1934 with Clark Gable in *Men in White*, with Robert Montgomery in *The Mystery of Mr X* and with Constance Bennett in *Outcast Lady*. In 1935, she was directed by George Cukor in *David Copperfield*, playing young David's mother, and, in 1936, played opposite Ronald Colman in *A Tale of Two Cities*, and was seen as Katharine Hepburn's sister in *A Woman Rebels* and as Greta Garbo's loyal friend in *Camille*.

One of the most charming and beautiful actresses of her generation, Elizabeth Allan was born in Skegness and educated at the Quaker School in Darlington. After winning gold medals for elocution, she made her first stage appearance at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, in September 1927, "walking on" in *The Taming of the Shrew*. At the Old Vic in March 1928, she had her first speaking role, as Maria, in *The School for Scandal*. She had her first major West End success at the St James's Theatre in February 1930, when she played opposite Frank Lawton, in A.A. Milne's play, *Michael and Mary*. In 1931 she made her film debut in an Agatha Christie murder mystery, *Alibi*, and in the same year was directed by Victor Saville in the screen version of *Michael and Mary*, in which she again appeared with Frank Lawton.

In June 1932 she married Wilfrid James ("Bill") O'Brien, a partner in the West End production company, O'Brien, Limit and Dunfee, and the casting-director of the Cameo Picture Palace. She converted to his religion, Roman Catholicism, and the

marriage was to endure happily for 45 years.

Her Hollywood career might have been even more lustrous, but for her decision to sue M-G-M for losing the promised lead in *The Citadel* to Rosalind Russell. Louis B. Mayer, head of the studio, is said to have blacklisted her, and in 1938 she returned to the London stage in her greatest West End success, *Quiet Wedding*, which reunited her with Frank Lawton. She returned to British films and in 1940 proved herself an accomplished comedienne in *Saloon Bar*, with Gordon Harker and Alpo Clunes. In 1942 she was radiant in Technicolor as the spirited actress and singer, Mrs Cibber, in *The Great Mr Handel*, and in 1944 as George Formby's leading lady in *He Sings To Conquer*. In 1946 she was seen at the Aldwych Theatre in *And No Birds Sing*, and in 1947 was teamed again with her favourite co-star, Frank Lawton, in *The Andalusian Kingdom*, at the Playhouse.

After an absence of five years, she reappeared on screen with Myrna Loy in *That Dangerous Age* in 1949, joined Madeline Dietrich and James Stewart in the film of Neville Sturges' *No Highway* in 1951, and gave the best of her later cinema performances as Trevor Howard's unloved wife in *The Heart of the Matter* in 1953. In the same year, she played opposite Dennis Price in *Black Man's Buff* at the St Martin's Theatre, as a woman doctor accused of being his accomplice in the murder of his wife.

In the early 1950s, she achieved popularity on television as one of the original panelists on *What's My Line?*, always glamorous in elaborate evening gowns, with dazzling long earrings and a distinctive silver-streaked hair. Television viewers also saw her in *Guilty My Story*, in the 1955 series. In 1958, Elizabeth Allan starred in the last of her 44 films, *Grip, the Stranger*, with Boris Karloff and Jean Kent, and in 1959 devised and presented the popular television series, *Swap Shop*, which carried her successfully into the 1960s. One of her last television roles was in 1968, with Mona Lisa, in the comedy series *The Mary Berry Show*.

Her husband's ill health brought about her withdrawal from showbusiness. After his death in 1977, she retired, living contentedly at her large house in Hove.

Latest wills

Mr John Charles Peregrine Langston, of Langton by Spilsby, Lincolnshire, who was an example of the modest and daffodil country squire, and had the distinction of being descended in the male line from a medieval ancestor who took his surname from lands still in the family (the Langtons have been at Langton since the reign of Henry II), left £175,832 net.

Mr John Dalton Morten-Sale of Moretonhamstead, Devon, artist and illustrator whose work was well known to readers of *Eleanor Farjeon*, *Beverly Nichols*, *James Barrie* and the *de Selincours*, founder of the publishing house, the Paragon Press, left estate valued at £61,806 net.

Mr Walter Gerson Rothchild of Great Doddington, Northamptonshire, left estate valued at £4,722,957 net. He left his estate mainly to his wife.

Mr John Jasper Shingler, of Ampton Green, Edgbaston, Birmingham, left estate valued at £2,390,454 net. He left his estate mainly to his wife.

Mrs Vera Florence Atwell, of Lympstone, Devon, formerly of Redgrave, Salterton, left estate valued at £1,122,562 net.

Eleanor Thelma Joseph, of Edgware, Middlesex, left estate valued at £618,150 net. She left her entire estate equally between the World Wildlife Fund and the RSPCA.

Other estates include (net before tax):

Elsie Allman, of Ewton, Cheshire, £725,055.

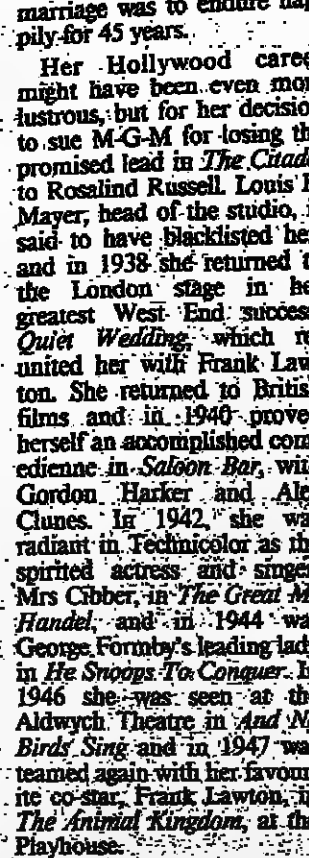
Mr Roger Barrington Copeman, of Surlingham, Norfolk, £594,999.

Monica Mary Cronin, of London, W8, consulting anaesthetist, £532,636.

Mrs Ruth Alice Elliott, of Norton, Gloucestershire, £358,707.

The Hon John Wynne Hargrave, of Meiford, Powys, £275,574.

Mrs Maizie Inghides, of Stull, West Midlands, £292,885.



Safety lesson the parents must learn

Contrary to popular belief, pupils are not automatically insured against injury while at school. Anne-Marie Sapsted looks at the risks

Parents drop their children at the school gates each morning in the expectation that they will be at least as safe as they are at home. Mostly, that is true. But about two million children a year suffer injuries requiring hospital treatment, and as the breadth of activities on offer in education increases, more families risk losing out on financial aid and compensation in the event of a child's injury.

Though private schools have acted to solve the problem, most state schools, which have nine million children in their charge, have not. If serious injuries occur to a child during school time, parents may face enormous financial burdens. Recent court cases have demonstrated that the insurance liability of schools is limited to accidents where it can be proved that teachers were negligent by, for instance, failing to provide adequate supervision or reasonable safeguards.

The rise in the number of school accidents was highlighted at a conference at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Buckinghamshire, attended by educationists, parents' groups, safety and sporting organisations, and legal and insurance experts.

Douglas Stewart, a litigation lawyer and member of the Spinal Injuries Association, says: "In the past few years, it has become the norm for children at private schools to be automatically covered by insurance, but, unfortunately, the message is not getting through to state schools."

"We have been pressing the government and local authorities to make parents aware of this. Parents appear to believe that once their children are in school, they are in a safe environment. The facts show this is not so."

"If parents knew how difficult it was to win a case against a school, particularly for sporting injuries, most would opt for the sort of cheap policy that would provide substantial compensation without the need to prove blame."

Dr John Silver, head of the spinal unit at Stoke Mandeville, became aware of the problem several years when there was an epidemic of rugby injuries. "Two of my own children were playing rugby," he says, "and the first thing to do was to get them insured."

Dr Silver's pioneering work in the field of sporting injuries has led to changes in the rules of rugby and to the introduction of insurance cover by the Rugby Union for all players, including children.

Gina Borrer, of Brown Shipley, the insurance broker which organised the Stoke Mandeville conference and which specialises in insurance policies for schools, said that though more than half a million state school children were covered, fewer than 90,000 in state schools had taken out such policies.

A difficulty is that while private school managers can opt for policy as an organisation and add a small amount to school fees to pay for this, the burden falls to state schoolchildren's parents to make individual arrangements.

For a school of a minimum of 200 pupils, basic insurance cover would be £6 a head, which would give maximum benefit of up to £100,000. For little more than £2 a month, a parent can take out a policy on a child which would give 24-hour, year-round cover and maximum benefits of £200,000, for accidents at home, school or on holiday abroad.

The company's own survey of 1,000 claims arising from accident at school shows that sports injuries account for 40 per cent of the total.

The government and local authorities were criticised at the conference for not alerting parents. A Department of Education and Science official said it was a matter for each local education authority or parent. A DES publication, "Safety in Outdoor Education", gives guidelines for special school trips and athletic activities.

David Whitbread, under-se-



Playing safe. If a child is hurt during school time, is adequate insurance cover always available?

retary for education at the Association of County Councils, says the question of insurance crops up more and more. "One issue is whether the whole community should contribute to insurance cover for children. It would add another million or so to the budget at a time when finances are stretched. The best advice for parents is to get general insurance cover for their children."

The National Confederation for Parent-Teacher Associations (NCPTA) has long campaigned for the introduction of such schemes into schools. George Whiting, the NCPTA's insurance officer, says the schemes are neglected by local authorities and teachers.

Mr Whiting knows of only two authorities, Devon and Nottingham, where the education authority has made a point of spe-

ling out the dangers for parents and recommending insurance policies or the NCPTA for more information.

"Several companies are trying to break into the schools market with cheap schemes, but when you examine them, they stipulate restrictions. For example, certain sports are excluded, or there is no 24-hour cover, or the schemes do not cover children for holidays abroad. You have to read the small print carefully."

"One company has settled claims totalling about £5 million in the past four or five years. Forty claims have been settled within the past three years, of which five or six have been fatalities. So we know there is a need."

The NCPTA has written to every school in the country at least twice in recent years and Brown Shipley has distributed five million leaflets free to parents.

"We continue to try," Mr Whiting says. "It is disappointing, but I do not see what else we can do. If we could achieve the level that they do in independent schools, it would bring the cost down even more."

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents is tackling the problem from a different angle. The society is working to have safety lessons incorporated into the national curriculum in an attempt to cut the number of accidents.

The new health guidelines soon to be issued to schools will include safety recommendations for the first time.

But, as Mr Whiting comments, "Children are at risk because of their exuberance. They often do not think before they act. What we want to get across to adults is that for less than the price of a video, their children can be protected."

NOTICEBOARD

Second go at courses

STUDENTS WHO this year fail to achieve their expected A-level grades are being offered an improved chance to find vacancies on other courses at universities, polytechnics and colleges.

Campus 2000, the computerised education network, can provide high-speed access to course vacancies as they are daily updated by the Universities Central Council on Admissions and the Polytechnic Central Admissions System.

The service, known as "clearing", operates from a database compiled by The Times Network Systems Limited and Prestel Education, and will be supplemented each day in *The Times* by the publication of vacancies and telephone numbers for all local education authority careers officers, who can give more information on courses.

Last year, about 179,000 students competed for 19,000 places during clearing, which this year is from August 22 to September 21. Gordon Jones, of Campus 2000, says: "The database means students can find vacancies more quickly."

Credential check

PARENTS WHOSE children are being examined by educational psychologists will be able to check the credentials of specialists through the first Register of Chartered Psychologists, published today.

The British Psychological Society says that it has made the register available to combat a growth in the number of people who are offering educational advice in the private sector without proper qualifications. A spokesman for the society says that many people are turning to educational psychologists for a second opinion on their children's ability to meet the National Curriculum.

John Thacker, the chairman of the society's educational and child division, says: "Parents should look for the titles 'chartered' and 'C. psychol.' to be assured of a qualified professional."

Top marks

A SURVEY of 600 academics throughout Europe has found that English universities are ranked top for more than half of the 21 subjects scrutinised.

The survey, published by *Libération*, the French newspaper, placed Cambridge top overall, with best in the categories of history, biology, chemistry and physics. Other English winners were Oxford, Imperial College, London, and the London School of Economics.

Vandals lose

A COMPREHENSIVE school has won a large share of the world's richest education prize. Seven years ago, Lilian Baylis School, in Lambeth, south London, was spending thousands of pounds a week on repairing damage caused by vandals. A programme to involve parents in the discipline of the school has since made vandalism rare. The 578-pupil school won £100,000 of the £150,000 Jerwood Award for educational achievement. The award, in its second year, attracted 368 nominations from schools and organisations involved in the education of children aged five to 18. The prize is financed by John Jerwood, a pearl merchant.

Voting video

LABOUR-CONTROLLED Camden council has helped to produce a video for its sixth-formers urging them to use their right to vote. The 12-minute video, *No Vote = No Say*, is described as a "forceful programme presented by young people who are strongly committed". There is no mention of the causes to which they are committed. The company that directed the film, Invidio, says that by providing an opportunity to discuss "democracy, women's rights and the future role of Europe", the video will help teachers implement the national curriculum's "education for citizenship" requirement.

A young business

TWO BRITISH schools took part this weekend in the first European Young Company of the Year competition, held in Cork, Ireland. Pupils from Pate's Grammar School, Cheltenham, in Gloucestershire, and Longridge High School, in Lancashire, earned the right to compete against young people from Belgium, Ireland, Sweden and Malta after setting up their own small businesses. Those from Longridge formed a toy company, while students at Pate's devised a card game to teach beginners to read music.

TOM GILES

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EDUCATIONAL

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Further information may be
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Aston University,
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ASTON UNIVERSITY

LECTURESHIPS

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

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Applications are invited for a Lectureship in the area of Dynamics and Control from 1 October 1990 to 31 March 1991. The successful candidate will be expected to undertake research in the field of Dynamics and Control, and to contribute to the teaching of the subject. The successful candidate will be expected to undertake research in the field of Dynamics and Control, and to contribute to the teaching of the subject.

Further particulars and application forms from the Director of Academic Staff, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH, Tel: 0533 522025.

Closing date for receipt of applications is 22nd August 1990.

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Molecular Biology, and to contribute
to the teaching of the subject.

The successful applicant will be expected to commence on 1 October 1990 or as soon as possible after this date. Salary will be on the Lecturer's scale currently £10,000 - £15,000 p.a., under review.

Further Particulars and Application Forms can be obtained from Professor P.J. Patterson, Head of Division of Bioscience Sciences, King's College London, Campden Hill Road, London W8 7AH. Tel. No. 071 335 4327.

The closing date for applications is 31st August and interviews are anticipated during the week of 17th September 1990.

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Further particulars and application forms are available from The Secretary, School of Oriental and African Studies, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London, WC1H 0XG. Telephone 071-525-6041. Applicants resident abroad may apply direct to the Secretary in letter form supported by a full curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three referees. All applications should be submitted by Friday 17 August 1990.

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Further information from the Secretary General of the Faculty, General Board Office, The Old Schools, Cambridge CB2 1TT, to whom applications, marked "Confidential", should be sent with the names of two referees by 7 September 1990.

The University follows an equal opportunities policy.

RESEARCH POSTS

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The Council intend to elect to a number of Research Fellowships tenable from 1st October 1991. The Fellowships are open to graduates of or Research Students in a University of the British Isles who will normally have completed not more than three years of full-time research by 1st October 1990.

Full particulars may be obtained from
The Master's Secretary,
Gonville and Caius College,
Cambridge CB3 1TA.

Applications for the Fellowships must be received in full by 18th September 1990.

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Further details and application forms are available from the Personnel Officer, Middlesex Polytechnic, Queensway, Enfield, Middlesex EN3 4SF. Please quote ref: 93582/B. Closing date 16 August 1990.

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY ATMOSPHERIC IMPACTS RESEARCH GROUP

Research Fellow and Two Research Associates Required from 1 October 1990 to work on projects concerned with Effects of Climate Change on Agricultural Potential. A Research Fellow and Associate will join a two year project funded by ECHO programme of the European Community and the other Research Associate required for a two year MAFF funded project on the L.K. Additional short-term appointments may also be available.

Applicants for a Research Fellow should hold a PhD. Research Associates require a first degree in environmental, agricultural or physical sciences. For all positions, a familiarity with computerised data sets and Geographical Information Systems would be advantageous.

Salaries (currently under review) are as follows:
Research Fellow £10,458 - £16,665
Research Associates £9,816 - £12,381
Application forms returnable by 24 August 1990 and further particulars available from the Director of Staffing Services, The University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT. Telephone 021 414 6483 (24 hours). Quote Ref A13064. The University is an equal opportunities employer.

Gonville and Caius College

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1. Biblical Studies, including Rabbinics and Patristics.
2. The comparative study of religions.
3. Ancient Eastern languages and literature.
4. The anthropology of primitive societies.

The Bye-Fellowship is open to university graduates, including holders of Faculty posts in other universities on leave or on secondment. It is tenable for a maximum of two years from 1 October 1991. The salary is within the range £14,169 - £15,450, depending on qualifications and experience. For further particulars and application details, write to the Master's Secretary, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge CB3 1TA.

The closing date for applications is 10 November 1990.

THEATRE: INTERVIEW

Positive case of revisionism

On the eve of the British premiere of a Russian play which was written at the turn of the century, Benedict Nightingale meets RSC director David Jones, whose company has made a case for the author, Maxim Gorky, to be ranked alongside Chekhov

The Royal Shakespeare Company made some unforgettable contributions to theatrical history in the 1970s. There was its premiere of Pinter's haunting memory-play *Old Times*, and there was Peter Brook's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, with its acrobats, trapezists and sci-fi fizz and glitter. There was also its discovery that Maxim Gorky was a major dramatist, second only to Chekhov in the Russian pantheon.

For the insular British, this came as a surprise. True, we had known and respected Gorky's portrait of drifters in their Moscow doss-house, *The Lower Depths*; but we trusted such academics as Allardyce Nicholl and Andrew MacAndrew, who shrugged off his other plays as "essentially mediocre" and "dated". And then, on a mind-splitting evening in 1971, came the RSC's revival of Gorky's *Enemies*, followed by *The Lower Depths* itself, *Summerfolk*, *The Zerkovs* and *Children of the Sun*. By the end of the decade the director David Jones could argue that Gorky was "as great as Chekhov" without reducing anyone to titers of incredulous dismay.

Jones was certainly entitled to exaggerate a bit, because he had personally returned and staged all those plays except one. That was *Children of the Sun*, which Jones somewhat unwillingly handed over to Terry Hands after going off in 1979 to run the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

In return for his self-denial, however, Jones struck a bargain. The RSC would not present Gorky's *Barbarians* until he was able to direct it. Watching someone else's production of that play, Jones implied, would be like witnessing the deflowering of a loved one; and, when the RSC asked him for permission to tackle it in the mid-1980s, he firmly told them to keep their hands (and their hands) to themselves.

Well, there will no longer be need for restraint after tomorrow night. That is when Jones at last opens the British premiere of *Barbarians*, belatedly completing what he sees as a distinct cycle. With the exception of *The Zerkovs*, which dates from 1913, all the RSC's Gorky plays were written between 1902 and 1906, at a time of turmoil in both the dramatist's life and Russia itself. The Tsar's regime was teetering. The 35-year-old Alexei Peshkov, alias Gorky (which is Russian for "bitter"), disappeared into the notorious Peter and Paul prison, emerged to prepare for armed insurrection, then fled to Finland, Germany and the United States.

"It was a white-hot time for him, politically and creatively," Jones says. "I'm not sure he consciously decided to write a series of works about Mother Russia, but that's what he ended up doing."

Each of his plays in this period takes a critical look at a different section of a fragmented, floundering society, ready for change but unable to see how to achieve it. *The Lower Depths* is mainly about the losers, the outcasts; *Summerfolk* involves the nouveau riches, chattering, bickering, philosophising and playing games in their holiday villas; and *Barbarians* is set in a small town, peopled by descendants of the characters of

Gorky's *Government Inspector*, but this time invaded by engineers bringing the railway to the Russian outback.

Enemies, in Jones's view the finest of the lot, is nakedly about class conflict. Beautiful people, among them well-meaning liberals, saunter across the lawn, enjoying what seems to be a 24-hour picnic, only to be confronted by revolt in the local factory and the murder of its hard-nosed boss. On each side there is a closing of ranks, polarisation: "enemies". As a capriciously garnered crowd of workers are led away, snarling defiance from beneath the hoods over their heads, it is possible to understand, and at a level no history book could teach, just why 1917 was inevitable.

Chekhov, too, saw upheaval ahead. His more earnest characters were always prophesying the collapse of a world that troubled them as much as it did Gorky. But Chekhov died before the violence of 1905, did not share his friend and colleague's radicalism, and tended to focus on the upper classes. His work had neither the social sweep nor the political punch of Gorky.

"The student in *The Cherry Orchard* is not in an underground cell or being investigated by the authorities," points out Jones. "But that is often the case in Gorky, because such events impinged more on his life. For him Russia was a massive police state, full of spies and provocateurs." Even in *Barbarians*, a far less obviously "political" play than *Enemies*, one of the more unappealing characters is a part-time informer, whose whisperings have caused two deaths.

I would of course be superficial to argue that this makes Gorky a bigger writer than Chekhov. On the contrary, his revolutionary convictions could easily leave him looking dated, limited, small. Yet there is nothing shrill or propagandist about his work. If he does not have Chekhov's munificence of spirit — who does? — he can write with generosity about the nob classes and with unsentimentality about the poor.

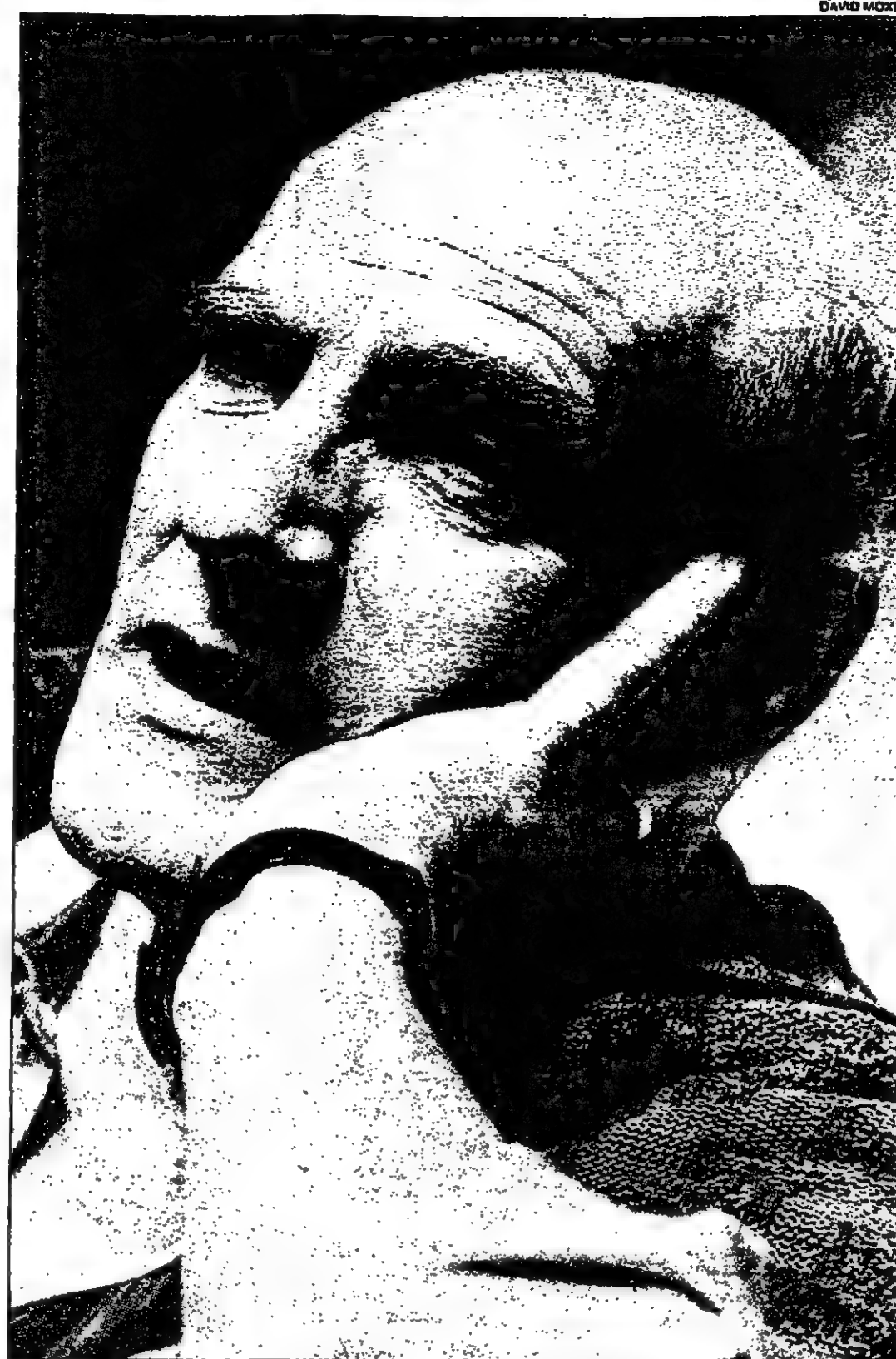
"His curiosity and fascination with people was so intense," says Jones, "that even the weakest and most repulsive come across as startling, fresh and original on the stage. He has a point of view to put, and put it."

The effect is of richness, abundance and unpredictability. Hidden feelings burst into the open, making it clear how much has been subtextually seething. The tone veers from the comic to the painful, the absurd to the ugly.

One of Jones's own favourite moments in *Barbarians* comes when a small-town *femme fatale* confronts the morose doctor terminally obsessed with her. He abjectly pleads for her attention, she tells him he has rotten teeth, he declares she has "oceans of love hidden inside," she breezily dismisses him as "ridiculous".

"It is a mixture you get in Chekhov," says Jones, "but bolder, laid on with oils and not water colours. You get betting great laughs at incredibly poignant, devastating moments."

That volatility, he thinks, helps explain why Gorky has been neglected in Britain. English audiences resist mood-swings so extreme, and performers find them



David Jones, director of Maxim Gorky's *Barbarians* for the RSC at the Barbican

hard to play. "Our actors tend to smooth things down," he says. "With Gorky they have to discover the courage and conviction to show us a hailstorm which blows over and then comes back within the space of seconds. They need a kind of gypsy panache."

That is what the RSC discovered in itself in the 1970s. Suddenly a conversation about truth and beauty in *Children of the Sun* was interrupted by the entry of what looked like a blend of the Incredible Hulk and Bill Sykes: the local blacksmith drunkenly pursuing his wife with a stick. As the factory owner of *Enemies* sprawled dead over the samovar, an eccentric old general cantered onstage, roaring with delight and slapping his buttocks, who was posing as a horse.

In *The Lower Depths* an old actor equally unexpectedly asked his fellow derelicts to pray for him and then went off with a laugh and a shrug to hang himself, an event greeted with the line: "He's spoiled our song, the fool."

It was daringly real and, for all its period feeling, not without latter-day meaning. It is hard nowadays to sympathise with the kind of cure Gorky sought — did he not end up disillusioned by the revolution, exiled by Lenin and possibly murdered by Stalin?

But the human restlessness he diagnosed is surely more permanent. Today, too, people tend rather often to feel, as someone in *Summerfolk* says, "like ice-floes in the Arctic, bumping into each other". Gorky's quirky eloquence is still worth hearing.

● *Barbarians*, translated by Jeremy Brooks and Kitty Hunter-Blair and directed by David Jones, previews tonight at 7.30pm, opens tomorrow at 7pm and continues in repertory (this week: Wednesday 7.30pm, Thursday 2pm and 7.30pm, Barbican Theatre, London EC2 (071-638 8891), until October 30

CRITICS' CHOICE: THEATRE AND CABARET

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current London shows can be found overleaf

(0533 538797). Previews from Thur, 7.30pm. Opens Fri, 8pm. Then Mon-Thur, 7.30pm, Fri and Sat 8pm, mat Sat (from Aug 11), 3pm. Until September 8.

JEREMY KINGSTON

NEW IN LONDON

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL: A superior French-Canadian circus (no animals) that has gathered international awards for acrobatics, general artistry and music. Said to have changed the circus's image overnight. Jubilee Gardens Big Top, South Bank Centre, SE1 (071-928 8800). Undergound: Waterloo. Opens tomorrow, 8pm, then Tue-Sat, 8pm. Sun, 8pm, mat Sat, 3pm and Sun 2.30pm. Until August 19.

KEAN: Derek Jacobs heads a strong cast in Sam's drama, subtitled *Disorder and Genius*, about the low-born actor with a Melting Identity crisis. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (071-928 7818). Undergound: Waterloo. Previews from Thurs, 7.30pm. Opens August 7, 7pm, Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, 2.30 and Sat, 4pm.

MARCEL MARCEAU: Mime supreme Bep and his company return for a 15th London season. He is still a master in his own field, and the year brings seven new creations, including *Jelly and Hyde*. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (071-278 8916). Undergound: Angel. Opens tomorrow, 7.30pm. This week, Tue-Fri, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat, Thurs, Aug 16 and 23, 2.30pm, Sat, 2.30pm. Until August 25.

PIANO: New Trevor Griffiths play set in 1900 Russia, moving on from where Chekhov left off. National Theatre (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071 928 2252). Undergound: Waterloo. Previews from Thurs, 7.30pm. Opens August 8-9, 7pm. Then in repertory.

VOYAGES: Described as a spiritual odyssey in two parts. A company headed by Yoshi Oida (who was once Peter Brook's Ariel) presents *The Tibetan Book of the Dead* and the Not-based *Tales of the Chameleon*. Almeida Theatre, Almeida St, N1 (071 358 4404). Undergound: Highbury and Islington. Preview tomorrow, 8pm, opens Wed, 7pm, then Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until August 18.

OUTSIDE LONDON

CHICHESTER: Rumours. Polly Adams, Una Stubbs, Simon Ward in Neil Simon's farce about scandal in high places, relocated by the author in feisty Haslemere. Festival Theatre, Oaklands Park (0243 781312). Previews tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm. Opens Wed, 7pm. Then in repertory.

My Mother Said I Never Should. Welcome revival for Charlotte Keatley's moving and excellent 20th-century patchwork, seen from the viewpoints of four generations of women. Minerva Theatre, Oaklands Park (0243 781312). Previews from Wed, Opens Thurs, then Fri, 7.45pm. Then in repertory.

LEEDS: *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. Jenny Stoller in Neil Simon's subtle and touching comedy, which was based on his own youthful experience in suburban New York. West Yorkshire Playhouse (Quarry Theatre), Quarry Hill Mount, (0532 442111).

Tues-Fri, 7.30pm, Mon and Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Until August 25.

LEICESTER: *Little Shop of Horrors*. Famous and variously successful musical horror-comedy. Fenton Gray plays the flower shop wimp who lands the plant from Outer Space. Haymarket Theatre, Belgrave Gate

LONDON CABARET

BISCUIT TIN COMEDY CIRCUUS: Denis Leary, the popular American, in a full-length show endearingly titled *No Cure For Cancer*. On recent form, it is likely to entertain and shock in equal proportions. The Cabbage Patch, 67 London Road, Twickenham (081 892 3874). British Rail, Twickenham. Wed and Thurs, doors 7.30pm, show 9pm. £5.

MILES AND MILLNER: These two chaps offer a courtly almost old-fashioned mix of hectic revue-style music and comedy called *The Complete History Of Music*. Latchmere Theatre, 503 Battersea Park Road, SW11 (071 228 2620). British Rail, Clapham Junction. Wed, Thurs, 8pm, £4.50 (£3 concs).

MINOR COMPLICATIONS & ONE LUMP OR TWO: With Jenny Bone, Alex Langdon, Lewis MacLeod and Vicki Coren, aged 15 to 18 years old, playing comedy. They're followed by two adults: Mike Hayley and Doon. Pentameters, The Three Horseshoes, Heath Street Hampstead NW3 (071 435 6757). Undergound: Hampstead. Wed, Thurs and Fri, 8.30pm. £3.50 (£2.50 concs) for each show or £5 (£4 concs) for both.

THE AUSTRALIAN PIG: The versatile Judy Pascoe who acts, writes, does stand-up and was once a circus virtuoso with Circus Oz, represents Australia with a three-handed show she has written. She describes it as an Australian Pygmalion story. Bloomsbury Theatre, 15 Gordon Street, WC1 (071 387 8829). Undergound: Euston/Juston Square. Tues-Sat, 8pm, £5 (£3.50 concs).

BANANA CABARET: Edinburgh previews with American comedian and musician Ray Hanna in *Screams From The Road* (also on Tues) and Kevin Day and John Moloney in *Faith, Hope And Comedy*. The Bedford, Bedford Hill, SW12 (081 673 8804). Undergound: B&R. Baltham. Wed, doors 8pm, show 8.30pm, £3.50 (£2.50 concs).

THE HOLY CARDIGANS: Jo Brand, Patrick Marber and James Macabre are three of our finest comic talents. In this show, they perform separate solo stand-up sets and then combine in a parody of an indie band. Meccano Club, The Market Tavern, 2 Essex Road, N1 (081 800 2238). Undergound: Angel. Fri, doors 8.30pm, show 9pm, £3.50 (£3 concs). Also showing at The Camden Head, Camden Passage, N1. Undergound: Angel. Sat, doors 8.15pm, show 8.45pm, £3 (£1 off if you wear or carry a cardigan).

COMEDY PREVIEW: Three nights of different Edinburgh previews at the atmospheric venue. Friday features Rob Newman, the impressionist and comedian, plus Jim Tavaris (recently back from a winning show in Montreal), Simon Munnery and Stuart Lee. Saturday highlights Tavaris and Lee again, this time with outrageous Aussie Bob Downie. Sunday stars Denis Leary and *No Cure For Cancer* (see Biscuit Tin, above), with support from intelligent and provocative stand-up Dave Biddell. T&C 2: 20-22 Highbury Corner, N5 (071 700 5716). Undergound: Highbury and Islington. Fri, Sat, and Sun, doors 7.30pm, shows 8.30pm, £5-£6.

CAROL SARLER

TELEVISION

Hell to heaven, via purgatory

ABANDON hope all ye who enter here: Peter Greenaway, whose films have won the top prizes for advanced intellectual and visual obscurity at festivals all over the known critical world, comes to television with the first eight cantos of *A T Dante*. Dante's *Inferno*, two cantos at a time, starting last night and running through to Wednesday on Channel 4. Bob Peck is Dante, a talking head surrounded by baroque Greenaway images and human footnotes — he has only to mention a leopard for David Attenborough to leap into vision with his sexual symbolism. Sir John Gielgud, in magnificent voice, is Virgil, though no sooner was he in place last night than David Rudkin popped up to give a brief guide to his life and work.

Veering from a schools-television lecture through the high gimmickry of split screens to moments of splendid drama is an insight, the television Dante is a hotchpotch of poetry and pedantry, at worst the basis for a Ken Russell musical and at best the first real attempt to get Dante in front of the television cameras. Stay with it tonight and tomorrow the films get stronger and more confident as the format and rhythms of the Tom Phillips adaptation grow more familiar, and by Wednesday we are at canto eight.

That leaves only another 92 to go, with about 24 already in the can. It is to be hoped that Channel 4, which already shows

signs of being rather less enthusiastic about its *Inferno* than it was at the outset, will not fail to make the Grade by seeing an increasingly ambitious project through to its ultimate infernal conclusion.

For some, the concept of true television hell is watching Leslie Crowther interviewing a working mother who has a passion for dressing up as Barbara Streisand, but who then gives a faintly inadequate impression of Petula Clark. Granada's *Stars In Their Eyes* (ITV) is a mumbly contest of such mind-numbing awfulness that were the new ITV authorities doing their duty, they could probably use it as an excuse for closing down Saturday night television altogether.

Almost the only unsolved mystery of the show is whether the Leslie Crowther who hosts it is the real Leslie Crowther, or yet another impressionist trying, not very well, to imitate Bob Monkhouse.

Back in the world of television for those who can view and think simultaneously, even at a week-end, BBC 2 started last night end, *BBC 2* started last night end, a series of interviews with the late Joseph Campbell, the American professor who specialised in studies of heroism and the arts. A myth in religion and the arts. A respectful if unchallenging interviewer, Bill Moyers, drew out of Campbell in the last summer of his life an analysis of the hero his life the ages, from Christ down through King Arthur to Luke Sky-

walker, and where most producers would have itched to illustrate every passing reference to the epic, cutaways here were kept to an intelligent minimum for what promises to be the best conversation show of the next five summer Sunday nights.

Earlier in the evening, ITV has for many years run a curious mild Godslot, *Highway*, in which Sir Harry Secombe roams the land seeking out religion in minor tourist beauty spots, while hosting a sort of Antique Wordworth Roadshow, loosely derived from *Down Your Way* and *Stars on Sunday*. Perfection will be achieved when he and Thora Hird sing highlights from the 23rd Psalm somewhere in the Lake District.

But while Sir Harry is laid off for the summer, Roy Castle has taken over the slot with *Castle's in Europe*, a brisk pilgrim's tour of the Continent. Last night found him sampling Bavarian restaurants in Oberammergau, while awaiting the Passion Play.

To see Roy dressed in a natty white sweater on what appeared to be the disused *Sound of Music* set, re-enacting the horrors of the Black Death, was the highlight of an improbable half-hour which found Christ in a travel-show format. Next week, with luck, he will discover the most Godly boarding houses on the Costa Brava and what they charge for breakfast.

SHERIDAN MORLEY



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Miss Corbishly found a letter with a George V penny stamp behind her desk. It was an invoice that went missing in 1928 — she remembered it well. The reason it came to light was that everything is being moved about owing to the impending rebuilding works that have been commissioned. As the Chairman quips on an almost hourly basis, "We're adding another

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REVIEWS

Old story retold at length

THEATRE
Brothers and Sisters
Theatre Royal, Glasgow

BYODOR Abramov died in 1983, too early to see his morbid diagnoses of Soviet life confirmed by later governments. Soon after his death the Maly Theatre of Leningrad staged Lev Dodin's version of his epic novel and the company has now brought this large-scale work to Glasgow for the "5 Theatres of the World" season, playing it on two successive evenings (tonight and tomorrow) or, in the form I saw it, on the afternoon and evening of one day.

In 1988 the Maly brought *Stars in the Morning Sky* to Glasgow, and then to London, where it won an Olivier Award. Its portrait of a group of prostitutes, showed out of Moscow to make the city clean for the Olympics, showed a freshness of treatment that the much earlier style of *Brothers and Sisters* cannot lay claim to. The spaciousness of the work is very different, of course, 60 actors and six hours of play, and there is undeniably accumulative power (in the first part anyway) as one naturalistic scene in committee room follows another in street or lumber camp. Yet the theme of gathering disillusion has long lost the element of surprise.

Mishka, the likeable young hero (Pyotr Semak), naturally needs



Breadwinner: Mishka (Pyotr Semak, right) with his hungry family in *Brothers and Sisters*

time to articulate contempt for propaganda films showing harvesters sweeping over fields of corn while his young brothers are unable to recognise a loaf of bread. Yet chance for selection and compression of facts yawn wide throughout the day; artistically the adaptation would be vastly improved at two-thirds its length, even though Mother Russia be colossal and communism's betrayal of the people has lasted 70 years.

The acting is impressive: four officials, sullen workers, energetic wives interact with a total conviction in the gestures of rough affection or scared withdrawal. A suspended panel of logs forms the central element in Eduard Kozhigin's set, framed by an asymmetric pattern of empty nesting boxes on poles; the wide panelled tiles to become wall, roof, riverbank or dancing floor and Dodin's production moves gracefully between the scenes.

From what I could make out through the translation, the language appears to mean only what it says, metaphors surfacing just in the snatches of song. Except for one moment when a character exclaims "The First is coming apart. Each finger cries 'I want to live!'". The year is 1950. Another 40 years remained. Poor blooded Russians.

JEREMY KINGSTON

PROMS

CBSO/Rattle
Albert Hall

THE American composer John Adams has made mountains out of minimalism. Never one to dodge the Big Issue, he wrote his now-famous opera, *Nixon in China*, as a kind of modern-day *Ringside* - with politicians, instead of Norse gods, hustling for world domination. Improbable though it may seem, his next opera, written in 1981 but here receiving its London premiere, the subject matter is again portentous: love, death and *liedstod*.

His orchestration is another mountain. Nothing minimal about *Harmonium's* forces: five trumpets, six horns, stacks of percussion and keyboards, full strings, woodwind and chorus, all to hurl out three intimate John Donne and Emily Dickinson poems. Like Rossini, Adams has discovered the crescendo. *Harmonium* begins with the chorus murmuring a regular pulse; the build-up to Donne's words is colossal: the surfaces become wider; brass scream out staccato rhythms. Adams has more harmonic sophistication than minimalist detractors would care to admit; nevertheless, the long washes on a single chord, or the dreary oscillation between two chords linked by a common note, are traits that act on the un-

converted as sleeping-pills might. At least the outer movements are fast and frenetic. Adams's long and tedious labour over the second poem, Dickinson's "Because I could not stop for death" (though a suitably deadly sound-track for a woman watching her own cortege), is so nondescript that the poem gains nothing from its setting.

Still, *Harmonium* filled one useful function: it demonstrated that the exceptional rapport between Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Chorus (evident in this superbly prepared performance) extends over a remarkable range of styles. Before Colin Purr glided gracefully through a well-crafted but unremarkable piece of Debussy (the Rhapsody for clarinet and orchestra), Rattle gave a compellingly lean and dramatic reading of Brahms's Fourth Symphony.

What the CBSO lacks in string bloom (which is not much) it makes up with its coiled-spring alertness. Rattle moulded the music like a potter working clay; some moments wistfully pulled back, others thrust forward with an astonishing attack. Everywhere there was shining clarity of purpose and execution. Halfway through the first movement, incidentally, part of an overhead light came crashing into the orchestra: lucky that Brahms wrote no vibraphone part, because he would have had no player on Saturday night.

RICHARD MORRISON

CONCERT

Orchestra of St John's/
Bishop-Kovacevich
St Nicholas's Chapel,
King's Lynn

ONE symptom of our musical retrospectiveness is the great number of concertos being written, since the concerto, even more than the symphony or the string quartet, comes with ready-made programmes of tone and form.

Anthony Powers's new Cello

Concerto, written for Steven Isserlis to play beautifully (it must be said that nobody writes for Isserlis to do anything else), seems rather nicely to take account, in a somewhat Benito-like fashion, of the fact of joining a game that has been going on a long time, particularly at the opening, where a solo cello from the orchestra begins to ruminate to a piano accompaniment whose innocent gestures suggest "once upon a time".

When the real soloist enters, with full orchestral support, it is to inject a very much more eruptive manner, but in fact the concerto

only properly gets going when the solo cello begins to counter its orchestral usurper with slow melody of its own.

The message appears to be that one extends from the past not by brutal opposition but by a judicious bending away, and from that point Powers creates a magical movement for the soloist to play with different orchestral groupings.

However, the naive piano idea recurs towards the end, as it does in each of the two subsequent movements, so that the concerto's great reach is always, deliberately, a little unsettled, and the final C

major chord is less an ecstatic achievement than a bowing to the inevitable. The second movement is a scherzo, with a marvellous lean mercurial dash in its opening section; the finale is a big slow movement, generating its melodic unfoldings out of black bass-heavy tollings.

The whole work is expertly measured to Isserlis's qualities as a precision virtuoso and fine-tuned lyrical player. Stephen Bishop-Kovacevich and the Orchestra of St John's gave him, and the composer, excellent support.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

ROCK

Jeff Beck
Hammersmith Odeon

IN A devastating display of virtuoso delicacy and heavy metal brutality, Jeff Beck confirmed his status as the greatest living rock guitarist. He was joined by the two other outstanding talents featured on last year's *Guitar Shop* album: Terry Bozzio (ex-Frank Zappa and U.K.), a man who treats drumming rather like a martial art, and Tony Hymas, the classically trained session player who has been Beck's preferred choice on keyboards since he parted company with his old sparring partner Jan Hammer.

With no singer, no bass player, no stage set, and just enough

lighting to create a sensible ambience, the trio began with a swift rampage through some of the *Guitar Shop* highlights.

The jazzy swing of "Savoy" gave way to the bluesy jinks and stabs of the album's title track, as the bare-chested Bozzio loomed up off his stool to give his sinister black cymbals the most fearful whiplashing, and show off the gold chain which was suspended between his two pierced nipples while he was about it.

The volume rose to a punishing extreme for the heavy rock fusion of "Sling Shot", an extended piece of epic complexity and visceral intensity. In white tee-shirt, faded blue jeans and still with a full clutch of realistically dark hair, Beck looked remarkably unchanged from his days as a Sixties godhead in the Yardbirds and his own Jeff Beck Group (with Rod

Stewart and Ron Wood).

More important than this was his similarly unchanged appetite for the task in hand. Having given so sparingly of himself in recent times (just three albums released in the last 12 years) he has been able to preserve the take-no-prisoners approach that has long since deserted contemporaries such as Eric Clapton and Jimmy Page.

"Behind the Veil", a softer reggae number, was the perfect vehicle for the more lyrical side of Beck's playing. Using thumb and fingers (as he did for most of the show) instead of a plectrum, he made constant, minutely detailed adjustments to tone controls and tremolo bar as he coaxed a sepulchral bleat sound from the guitar.

Older material such as "Free-way Jam" and "Star Cycle" was

given the Bozzio double bass drum treatment, producing an effect similar to that of a minor earth tremor and pretty well obliterating any keyboard-generated bass parts which the studio-looking Hymas may have been producing.

They climaxed with "Blue Wind", Beck producing huge pumping bends and industrial-strength guitar solos of staggering power and inventiveness.

For an encore, Beck produced instrumental versions of "People Get Ready" and his old calling card "Going Down" before a final blitzkrieg which he ended by forcibly wrenching all six strings in a tangled mass from the body of the waiting guitar. Mellow it was not.

DAVID SINCLAIR

NEW RELEASES

● **BABAR: THE MOVIE** (PG) Based on Jean de Brunhoff's popular children's character, Babar the elephant, this animated film is a charming and entertaining story of a young elephant who grows up in the jungle. Directed by Jean de Brunhoff. (PG) (1990) (MCA Home Video) £14.95.

● **THE BOOZIE** (PG) A comedy film about a young man who is a boozie. Directed by John Wood. (PG) (1990) (MCA Home Video) £14.95.

● **CRIMINAL MINDS** (PG) A series of short stories about the lives of the police. Directed by John Wood. (PG) (1990) (MCA Home Video) £14.95.

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THEATRE GUIDE

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CINEMA GUIDE

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WORD-WORTHING

Answers from page 20

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WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

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London firms suffer job losses and lower orders

By Neil Bennett

BUSINESSES in London are being hit by a combination of falling order books and rising job losses, according to a survey published today by the city's Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The chamber's survey of quarterly business trends shows that unemployment in greater London continued to climb in the three months of June, and was up by 4 per cent to 204,000.

Only 12 per cent of the surveyed companies said they had increased their staff in the quarter, while 27 per cent had reduced numbers.

There has been a parallel fall in companies experiencing recruitment problems from 48 per cent in March to 42 per cent.

Skilled manual workers are

the most strongly affected.

Orders over the summer had fallen sharply. More than half the large firms questioned said that domestic order books were lower than in March.

Most companies forecast they would drop again in the next three months. Even the growth in export orders is slowing due to the strength of the pound.

The companies in the survey lay the blame for their problems squarely on high interest rates.

Seventy-eight per cent say the urgency for a reduction has increased.

There are also rising fears about business rates, with half the companies that have suffered a rise saying it will affect their performance.

Factoring's bad debts increase 184% to £5.4m

By Our Banking Correspondent

THE effects of increasing failures among British companies are shown in figures from the Association of British Factors and Discounters. Bad debts in the factoring industry rose 184 per cent to £5.4 million in the first half.

The write-offs depressed profits in an otherwise successful six months for factoring, when invoice discounting rose 22 per cent to £2.54 billion, and the number of companies using factoring went up 17 per cent to 8,130.

Factoring, a means for businesses to borrow against their invoice book, is used mainly by small and medium-sized expanding companies. The increase in bad debts shows how vulnerable these busi-

nesses are to problems among their customers, and raises the threat of a domino effect of company failures.

The bad debts were incurred in non-recourse factoring, where factoring companies take on the risk of collecting on an invoice. In the more common recourse factoring, the factor's customers would have suffered the bad debt.

John Butterworth, managing director of RoyScot Factoring, which has 2.5 per cent of the market, said while factoring demand was sluggish, it would improve when the economy started to recover. Then, he said, companies would raise funds for development while the banks were still unwilling to lend.

Saudi business blossoms

DR Peter Wilde, a North Yorkshire chemist who, with 45,000 roses under cultivation near Thirsk, is producing the first rose oil on English soil for many generations, has secured a contract to help Saudi Arabia set up its own rose oil industry (Derek Harris writes).

Initially this will be a £2 million project, using a technique devised by Dr Wilde for extracting rose oil and a system of micro-propagated roses.

Dr Wilde, who describes himself as a pathologist turned entrepreneurial inventor, is one of a number of British businesses that are helping British Aerospace meet an obligation to plough back into Saudi Arabia £1 billion worth of technology, partially to offset a £4 billion arms order placed with BAE.

Dr Wilde is going to Saudi Arabia in September to look for suitable rose-growing land, and for Saudi partners. He wants hill locations for his English roses, which he believes will be the best for producing a range of rose oil products.

The Saudis were keen on Dr Wilde and his Floral Fragrances company because they are the biggest per capita users of rose oil, which is used not only in rose water and fragrances but also in cooking. The country spends £240 million a year importing it.

Most supplies currently come from Turkey and Bulgaria, but Dr Wilde wants to develop Saudi production to competitive levels.

Wilde, who operates from a small laboratory behind the marketplace in Thirsk, invented what he calls a "dry cleaning" method of extracting rose oil three years ago, employing a solvent process. He has developed rose strains that include genes from old-style damask roses that are rich in perfume, and propagates by a "cloning" system that avoids traditional and labour-intensive grafting methods.

Last year he marketed the country's first pure English rose oil soap - the world's most expensive at £150 for a pack of two tablets - through Harrods. Shortly a range of preparations manufactured in Knaresborough will be on the market.

Among Dr Wilde's previous inventions that he has sold successfully are a water hose clip, a liquid coffee extract and a just-add-water beer kit.



Coming up roses: 'entrepreneurial inventor' Dr Peter Wilde in his garden

Argentine debt initiative could help UK banks

By Our Banking Correspondent

ARGENTINA is starting to look into ways to repay part of its \$42 billion in commercial debts, a move that could bring important relief to Britain's banks.

Antonio Erman Gonzalez, the country's economy minister, announced the initiative on Saturday.

He said that Javier Gonzalez Fraga, the central bank president, would begin talks with Japanese bankers this week.

The move follows Argentina's resumption of interest payments of \$40 million a month on its debt last month after it had spent more than two years ignoring claims.

The money is still only a tenth of the full interest that the debt accrues.

But the change of attitude has already convinced the International Monetary Fund to offer a \$1.4 billion facility.

Now the government, under President Carlos Menem, wants to reopen relations with the commercial banks and repay part of the debt.

One possibility is that this could be achieved through a massive debt-for-equity swap.

The privatisation of ENTEL, the telephone company, and Aerolineas Argentinas, the national airline, have already reduced debts by \$7 billion.

One of the main banks to benefit from repayments would be Midland, which Argentina owes more than £1.3 billion.

The bank has already been the leader in establishing a syndicated \$1.3 billion debt-for-equity fund to try to recover some of its lending.

The fund, which is hoping to become a shareholder in ENTEL, may become the model for a larger debt reduction programme.

DTI in urgent look at water merger

By Graham Seabright, Financial Editor

THE Department of Trade and Industry is urgently considering whether to allow the Three Valleys Water Services merger to go ahead after receiving a report from Ian Byatt, director-general of water services, on whether all the project's estimated cost savings might be pushed through to customers.

A Monopolies Commission report, in April, said the scheme, which would give Compagnie Generale des Eaux a controlling interest in companies supplying 2.8 million customers round London, would operate against the public interest unless better proposals were made for the cost benefits, estimated at £60 million, to be reflected in lower charges.

Publication of the report sent shares in the privatised water-services groups to their lowest levels.

Nicholas Ridley, then trade secretary, gave Mr Byatt three

months to negotiate a satisfactory new price-control regime with Les Valley, Ouse Valley and Rickmansworth, the companies hoping to merge into Three Valleys. They had suggested the only benefit to consumers would be to make prices 6 per cent lower after ten years, when they would otherwise have been.

Mr Ridley, and at the time he was not persuaded that the benefits to consumers, from cost savings identified in the report, necessarily counter-balanced damage to the public interest from reducing the number of companies. Mr Byatt could compare, in his efficiency in the sector.

The monopolies report also said the "club" that brought together all the water companies round the country in the order of General Utilities, OGE's British subsidiary, to discuss "technical" matters, "might be prejudicial" to Mr Byatt's role.

Republican tipped to lead NYSE

From Our Correspondent in New York

WILLIAM Donaldson is tipped to become the next chairman of the New York Stock Exchange, replacing John Phelan, who has announced his retirement later this year.

Mr Donaldson, the founder of the firm Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette, is aged 59 and is said to be considering the offer. He founded his firm 30 years ago and has served in government, as under-secretary in the State Department in the early 1970s. He was also the first dean of Yale University's School of Organization and Management.

A strong Republican, he would give the Stock Exchange an inside track with the White House.

The NYSE board is due to make its decision on the new chairman next month.

Brake on Hungary's privatisation drive

The dismissal of István Tömpé, head of the high-speed state selloff programme, suggests a change of strategy. Wolfgang Münchau reports

THE Hungarian government last week sacked the man in charge of its privatisation programme, István Tömpé, over criticisms that he was inept in handling the country's first large selloff, the share flotation of Ibusz, the travel group.

The dismissal suggests Hungary is rethinking its ambitious privatisation programme, which involves the sale of 100 to 150 companies next year, aimed at raising between \$1.3 billion and \$1.9 billion.

Mr Tömpé's successor, Lajos Csépi, an ex-vic president of the country's post office, is likely to slow the speed with which Hungary will privatise, because of the unpopularity of the Ibusz share flotation.

The main problem was that most Hungarians could not participate because they did not have sufficient savings to invest or, if they did, they did not know enough about shares

and stock markets.

Ibusz was priced in such a way that the share buyers made an instant profit when the shares almost doubled in a few weeks. The beneficiaries were often wealthy ex-communists, for who capitalism now proves anything but painful, and foreign financial institutions, but not the average Hungarian, a situation which is politically unacceptable.

The chances of privatising 80 per cent of Hungary's state-owned assets within a few years, a wish once expressed by Mr Tömpé, now appear slim. Economic reform will be a long-winded process, and it will wrongfoot many of those who believe that Eastern Europe will become the focus

of industrial and economic action in the coming years.

There is the difficulty of privatising loss-making companies, a situation echoed across Eastern Europe.

British-style privatisation of the 1980s cannot be a model for Eastern Europe. This will come as a disappointment not least to the City of London, whose merchant banks have been hoping to generate income from advising on privatisation issues, and investment funds, whose managers hope for above-average returns in Eastern Europe.

In the Britain of the early 1980s privatised companies could prosper once exposed to the disciplines of the free market. This option is not

available in Eastern Europe, where there can be no purely domestic solution. Levels of skills may be comparable with Western European countries, but the quality of the management and the availability of finance through the public are not.

It is also difficult to establish the "right price" on loss-making companies. In Britain, privatisation targets had to be turned around before flotation, an option not available in Eastern Europe, where privatisation is meant to achieve profitability.

János Kornai, professor of comparative economics at Harvard University and a leading expert on Hungary, urges the Hungarian govern-

ment to adopt a cautious and evolutionary approach. In his forthcoming book, *The Road to a Free Economy*, he writes that "the sale of state property should not be governed by the guiding principle of speed."

Speedy privatisation British-style has so far been the hallmark of Hungary's privatisation programme. As seen so often in Eastern Europe, there is a good deal of naivety about western-style economic systems, culminating in a belief that equates capitalism with automatic wealth.

Ilona Hardy, managing director of the Budapest stock exchange, recently said that while the political revolution in Hungary is over, the economic revolution has yet to come.

The dismissal of Mr Tömpé and the cautious tones adopted by his successor suggest that there will be no economic revolution, but a gradual process of economic reform lasting many years.

Economic gloom may add to ERM pressure on yields

During the last month, ten-year gilt yields have fluctuated a few basis points either side of 12 per cent, and there has been little indication that a sustained move in either direction is likely soon.

This inertia has not been for lack of news. There has been a marked deterioration in public sector finances, leading to the prospect of increased gilt supply this year; an admission by the chancellor that inflation will take longer to fall next year than he expected; a rise in average earnings growth to 9.75 per cent and so on.

Admittedly not all the news has been bad. Retail sales fell by a hefty 2.8 per cent last month and there has been a notable improvement in money supply data. Yet none of these events has made much of an impression on the gilt market.

This behaviour is not too difficult to explain. For some time the market has been dominated by Britain's prospective entry into the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System rather than by domestic fundamentals.

Market expectations centre on ERM entry in the first half of October, with 6 per cent bands around a central rate close to the present spot rate. It is not out of the question that the gilt market could continue to drift until the terms of ERM entry are known.

Assuming ERM entry does take place in the autumn, what level of yields, on say ten-year gilts, would be sustainable? The likelihood that Britain will join with wide bands, taken with the chancellor's statement last week that ERM "doesn't have the rigidity that some claim", clearly leaves open the possibility of significant fluctuations in the sterling exchange rate.

If, upon ERM entry, sterling were to move near the top of its wide band, as seems possible, there would be scope for subsequent sizeable foreign exchange losses that could 'easily' outweigh the existing yield differential in favour of gilts.

For many market participants, possibly the most important factor determining expected currency movements over time within the

EMS is relative inflation differentials.

Within the EMS it may, therefore, be most relevant to compare real (inflation-adjusted) bond yields across countries.

The real yields available on ERM bond markets vary between 6 and 7 per cent. There is no good reason to believe the real yield in Britain, once in the ERM, will average much less than 6.5 per cent. Even on rosy assumptions, the annual rate of inflation is unlikely to be much below 5 per cent. Thus at the brightest end of the spectrum, nominal gilt yields might drop to 11.5 per cent.

However, there could also be prolonged periods after joining when disappointment sets in, with the market concluding that the counter-inflation discipline of the system was not working, and the possibility that a future Labour government might devalue sterling within the parity grid.

At times like these, the market might conclude that core inflation was likely to remain at 6-7 per cent. The indicated gilt yield would rise to 12-13 per cent.

Clearly, ERM entry still leaves scope for wide variations in gilt yields in response to changes in domestic fundamentals. As for the next move in yields, it is possible that economic activity is on the verge of turning sharply down. Company results suggest trading conditions have become much more difficult in the last few months. Meanwhile, the marked decline in M3 growth this month to an estimated 5.5 per cent suggests a further weakening in retail sales.

Tomorrow's CBI survey should be watched carefully for evidence of a renewed decline in business optimism. A string of weak data, with continued ERM euphoria, could be sufficient to take yields down to 11.5 per cent over the summer. But beyond the end of this year, stubborn inflation and increasing political uncertainty should result in a significant retraction of yields back towards 12.5 per cent.

David Walton
Goldman Sachs
International

American real estate setback for NatWest

THREE of the big four clearing banks report interim results this week. Their figures will be influenced by domestic debt provisions, while high interest rates and a sharp slowdown in many sectors of the economy will also take their toll.

Lord Alexander of Weedon, the chairman of the National Westminster Bank, will lead the way when he reports tomorrow.

NatWest's domestic provisions are expected to be high, with brokers' estimates at about £212 million, against £144 million. However, these will be upstaged by the \$204 million of provisions at the American operations because of the collapsing real estate market.

Norrie Morrison at Kleinwort Benson Securities is looking for interim pre-tax profits of £537 million, compared with £711 million. This is at the lower end of market forecasts, which rise to £637 million.

TODAY

STC, the communications and information systems group, reports interim results. Most eyes will be on the ICL computers subsidiary, where news is awaited on the progress of the talks with Fujitsu of Japan.

STC, which issued a profits warning at the end of June,

saying that external profit expectations were too optimistic, will be affected by the launch costs of two important computer ranges at ICL.

Patrick Wellington, of County NatWest, is looking for taxable profits of £85 million, against £114.6 million. This is at the top end of market forecasts, which start at £77 million.

Analysts expect Securicor, the security-to-communications group which has a 40 per cent share in the Cellnet system, to announce half-time pre-tax profits up from £18.2 million to about £27.9 million.

News is awaited on the growth at Cellnet, which is responsible for the bulk of the increase in profits, and its market share relative to Racal Vodafone.

Profits at Security Services, Securicor's subsidiary, should climb from £14 million to £19.6 million.

Interim: Alpine Group, European Assets Trust, Grams Rintoul Investment Trust, Molins, Securicor Group, Security Services, STC. Final: Ashted Group, Cooper Clarke Group, Merrydown Wine, Economic statistics: London sterling certificates of deposit (June), monetary statistics, including bank and building society balance sheets (June), bill turnover statistics (June), sterling commercial paper (June), new vehicle registrations (June).

TOMORROW

Interim pre-tax profits at Mount Charlotte Investments.



Adamson: rise predicted



Lewinton: consolidation

the hotels group, are expected to rise from £22.3 million to £24.5 million, according to UBS Phillips & Drew, with forecasts ranging from £22 million to £23 million.

Trading profits will be boosted by Thistle, which was acquired last October. However, higher finance charges will wipe out most of this at the pre-tax level. News is awaited on the disposal programme.

Full contributions from acquisitions and strong organic growth should help pre-tax profits at Automated Security (Holdings), the security systems manufacturer, advance from £8.75 million to about £13 million in the half-year, according to Andrew Harrington at BZW, the house broker. Interim: Automated Security (Hold-

ings), Chrysler Corp, Mount Charlotte Investments, National Westminster Bank, St Mooven Properties, Updown Investment Co, Whitestone Leisure, Fintale Suteland Holdings, Union Square, YRM.

Economic statistics: CBI industrial trends survey (July).

WEDNESDAY

Sir Campbell Adamson, the chairman of Abbey National, the former building society now ranked fourth among the British banks by market capitalisation, should report annual net lending growth at about 20 per cent, with sound improvements in other income, mainly insurance.

However, Abbey's mortgage arrears have been increasing, in fact, they are estimated to have doubled to about £14 million, although they still

account for less than 5 per cent of operating profits.

The company is expected to report that home repossession stands at about 2,500 - and these are predicted to exceed 3,000 by the end of the year - although this is not as severe as it may seem considering Abbey's 1.2 million mortgage accounts.

Deteriorating housing markets are likely to result in a £10 million loss from the estate agency side, against £9.5 million last time.

John Wriglesworth at UBS Phillips & Drew has pencilled in interim pre-tax profits of £278 million, against a pro forma £253 million last time. This is at the bottom end of forecasts, which range from £273 million to £293 million.

Jeremy Chantry at Kleinwort Benson expects interim pre-tax profits at Yorkshire Chemicals, the dyestuffs and specialist chemicals group, to climb from £4 million to £5.5 million, although a prolonged industrial dispute will have held back profits in the comparative period.

Interim: Abbey National, T Cowie, Yorkshire Chemicals, Fintale Dale Electric International, Embassy Property Group.

THURSDAY

Higher provisions and poor margins at the Midland Bank, the weakest of the big four, are expected to result in pre-tax profits of £182 million in the

half-year, against a loss of £531 million last time, according to BZW. Market forecasts range from £150 million to £203 million. The dividend is likely to be flat.

TI Group, the specialist engineering group chaired by Christopher Lewinton, has seen a period of consolidation after recent acquisitions.

Sandy Morris at County NatWest is looking for a 15 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £57 million for the half-year. Market forecasts range from £57 million to £63 million.

Interim: Anglo & Overseas Trust, Fairway (London), Midland Bank, Noble Farendon, TI Group, Fintale London and New York Convertible Trust.

FRIDAY

Barclays Bank is the last of the big four to report and the results will depend on provisions for domestic bad debts. The figures will be hit by a £100 million provision for British & Commonwealth's collapse alone.

John Tyce at Nomura Research is looking for pre-tax profits of £650 million, against £590 million, with market forecasts ranging from £634 million to £745 million.

Interim: AMS Industries, Barclays Bank, F&C Enterprise Trust, Investment Trust of Guernsey, Fintale Hughes Food Group.

Philip Pangalos

A measure of corporate success

ECONOMIC VIEW

RODNEY LORD

In the course of the 1970s, two British companies developed important products for the medical services market. One innovation turned its progenitor into the most successful British company of the 1980s, the other cost its company its independence. What made the difference?

Having written your answer in the margin of the paper, we can turn to the latest issue of the *Business Strategy Review* from the London Business Centre's Centre for Business Strategy for a detailed history of this tale of two products. Did you write research and development spending, or manufacturing capability, or marketing muscle? You were wrong. What made the difference, according to Filippo dell'Oso, who conducted the IBS analysis, was marketing strategy.

The tale relates to Glaxo's anti-ulcer drug, Zantac, and EMI's Cat scanner. Of the two, the Cat scanner was by far the more innovative and significant technological advance, winning a Nobel prize for its inventors, Godfrey Hounsfield and Allan Cormack. The breakthrough in

anti-ulcer drugs was also made by a British scientist, James Black, but the product of his work (which also won a Nobel prize) was not Glaxo's Zantac, but Tagamet, produced and marketed by SmithKline.

Glaxo developed Zantac only after refocusing its research effort when Dr Black's results were published in 1972. Glaxo's product acts in a similar way to Tagamet, blocking the secretion of acid to allow ulcers to heal, and although Glaxo claimed that it had fewer side effects and could be taken with a twice-daily dose rather than a four-times-a-day dose, Zantac was not the breakthrough that Tagamet was.

Whereas EMI was a technological leader, Glaxo was a technological follower. When Glaxo launched Zantac in 1981, SmithKline has already been selling Tagamet for five years and had expanded the market from \$90 million to \$1.5 billion, making Tagamet the

world's best-selling drug. To overcome its marketing weakness in most of the main markets where Zantac had to be sold, Glaxo entered into joint ventures, sometimes with several different firms in the same market, and priced Zantac substantially higher than the competing product to signal its superiority. So successful was the strategy that Zantac captured 7 per cent of new prescriptions within a week of launching the product in America. Slow to improve its own product, SmithKline gradually lost its market lead and the benefits of its innovation to Glaxo.

EMI faced the same underlying problem as Glaxo of how to sell its product as a medium-sized

British company in markets where it had little or no presence. Relying on its technological lead, it decided to set up its own manufacturing facilities and do its own marketing, concentrating on America. At first it was successful but as competitors such as Ohio Nuclear and General Electric entered the field with more resources, EMI began to suffer losses. It was subsequently taken over by Thorn, and the Cat scanner business was sold to GE.

The question of why some companies fail and some succeed is one that will repay the application of economic disciplines. If only a quarter of the economic resources that the City squanders on trying to guess the next movement in interest rates were employed in trying to analyse business performance, the return to the economy would be a good deal higher.

A good starting point for an economics-based analysis of business performance is to try to define more closely what constitutes success or failure. None of the existing measures is wholly satisfactory. Return on capital cannot distinguish between capital intensive and labour intensive businesses. Banks and property companies which employ large amounts of capital will never make the same return on it as service companies which tend to employ relatively little. Equally, margin on turnover varies widely between the relatively high margins at the beginning of the production chain and the low ones among retailers. In any case, measuring margins begs the question of whether it is right to aim for a low turnover, high margin business or a high turnover, low margin one.

Evan Davis and John Kay, in another article in the *Review*, describe a new measure which attempts to capture a firm's economic value. They calculate a firm's "added value" by deducting from operating profits a figure for the return which could be made elsewhere on operating assets. This is done by applying the long bond yield to tangible assets including stocks. Having identified the value to shareholders and the economy of employing assets in that particular firm rather than elsewhere in the economy, they then relate the added value to input costs, that is labour costs plus the capital charge on operating assets.

In a league table of the six leading supermarket groups in Britain Kwik Save comes out clear winner producing £1.25 for every £1 of inputs. Sainsbury is next with £1.10, while Asda produces only 98p for every £1 of inputs. Though identifying winners does not tell you what made them successful, a clearer vision of the economics of the firm and the appropriate corporate goals could help to produce more Glaxos and fewer EMIs.

TEMPUS

Recovering the losses from a loose connection

EIGHT months have elapsed since Michael Shen was summoned back to take the helm at French Connection. His only public performance so far has been to unveil the horror of a £4.67 million loss for the year ended last January.

French Connection would probably have gone bust last winter but for the remarkable piece of opportunism demonstrated by Mr Shen five years earlier, when, on his recommendation, the group staked the man who came in to computerise its operations, for £50,000. The £15 million return on that investment realised last Christmas wiped out two-thirds of the group's debts, and effectively kept the business out of the hands of the receivers.

It also bought Mr Shen, an unassuming Hong Kong-born accountant, who spent five years as group finance director before dissatisfaction with his lack of influence persuaded him to resign in 1988, some valuable time, not to mention a little extra goodwill from the group's bankers.

Since Mr Shen returned, the Newcastle factory has been closed, as has the German retail venture. Tighter controls on overheads and stock levels have been introduced.

French Connection still has the banks wrapped tighter around its neck than a Nicole Farhi scarf, but gearing is down to about 30 per cent and the relationship is fast improving.

The shares, always a thin market, languished around 55p, having topped 200p in the good times. Too soon to buy, but the wrong time to sell.

Enterprise Oil

ICI and Elf are locked in a stalemate over their respective 25 per cent shareholdings in Enterprise Oil.

Peter Lilley's opening gambit as trade and industry secretary, criticising potential ownership of British companies by state-controlled foreign concerns, was a clear warning to Elf and its patrons in the French government that a bid for Enterprise would be referred to the monopolies commission. Renationalisation



Greentree: sold Enterprise shareholding to Elf

tion by the back door is simply not on.

This has negative implications for Enterprise shares, which carry a substantial bid premium even after Friday's losses, and for ICI, which can no longer justify the carrying cost of its substantial investment in Enterprise.

The options open to all parties concerned are running out fast, and a placing with institutional investors, at a discount to the market, looks inevitable. The problem is that neither side wants to make the first move.

Sir Denis Henderson, ICI's chairman, will not want to place his 25 per cent one day, only to see Elf bid in the market 24 hours later at a higher

price. If Elf moves first, the prospect of a takeover vanishes and Enterprise shares immediately collapse.

Only one person emerges with any satisfaction from the deadlock, and that is Chris Greentree, chief executive of the other exploration and production concern, Lasso. He sold the Enterprise shareholding to Elf at 450p a share, receiving a combination of cash and Elf loan notes that paid £24.4 million in the first half of the current year alone. But Elf, keen to increase its presence in the North Sea, might turn its attention to Lasso. Cash raised from a placing of Enterprise shares would provide a useful war chest, and a bid for Lasso has

the added attraction of cancelling the loan notes. Again, the Lilley doctrine might get in the way.

Against that background, the outlook for Enterprise shares is not good. Priced at 658p at Friday's close, they trade on a multiple of 21, assuming net income of £143 million and earnings of £1.4p in the current year. Net asset value is not far off 537p a share.

The stock market's current obsession with crude oil prices is offering support and gives investors an opportunity to sell.

Platinum link
COOKSON Group's sale last week of a commanding 7.91 per cent stake in Johnson Matthey could prove wrongly timed, if the tangle of interlocking shareholdings in the platinum industry should begin to unravel.

JM is 38.6 per cent owned by Charter Consolidated, and is under new management effectively installed by Charter. Charter is also under new management, put in by Minorco, and is looking for direct interests that are leaders in their field and going places. JM fits Charter's bill.

Charter in turn is 35.8 per cent owned by Minorco, which holds a 30 per cent stake in American precious metals group Engelhard Corporation.

Minorco thus has a direct stake in one platinum camp, and an indirect stake in another.

At present, the status quo worries nobody. However, Charter could not move much closer to JM without stirring up an international regulatory fuss. Unless, of course, its major shareholder (Minorco) was free of Engelhard.

Whether Minorco is willing to shed Engelhard remains to be seen.

Minorco's problem is not cash, but where to spend it. Minorco is already looking more like a bank, with cash balances bulging at \$2 billion.

JM shareholders should, meanwhile, play dummy and let their partner play the hand.

Private PowerGen deal 'would include windfall for workers'

John Lyons, head of the Engineers' & Managers' Association, fiercely criticised the possible sale of PowerGen to Hanson in *The Times*. John Wakeham, the energy secretary, bites back



Wakeham: other means of privatisation were never ruled out

JUST about the only thing John Lyons and I are agreed on about the privatisation of the electricity supply industry is that the industry's employees have demonstrated exemplary professionalism in the reorganisation of the industry, and I would like to pay them full tribute for it.

Mr Lyons has a well-known opposition to the privatisation proposals and makes clear his nostalgia for the days of centralised planning.

He asserts unequivocally that electricity generation is an activity that is not compatible with the introduction of competition.

Yet centralised planning was responsible for giving us the AGR programme, substantial over-capacity in generation, and insufficient diversity of fuel sources. The introduction of competition has already transformed a previously monopolistic industry, which tended to favour a limited number of very large projects, into a far more diverse and environmentally conscious one in which a lot of new thinking is now going on about both cheaper and cleaner means of power generation.

The special share provisions

were introduced in order to give the government the opportunity to intervene - if it judged it necessary - to influence the future control of the electricity companies. They would only become relevant when a company was offered for sale to the public which

provision has no relevance to the decision on whether or not it is acceptable for the bidder to gain control in this case. As I explained to John Lyons and his colleagues when they came to see me - and as my statement in the House of Commons on July 23 made

'The sale of PowerGen will be decided in the best interests of this country'

clear - I intend to make sure that appropriate contractual safeguards are written into any agreement with Hanson or another purchaser of PowerGen. That, and not the special share provision, is the best way to proceed if a private sale

subsequently resulted in a bid or some other means of obtaining control. But in the present case, this simply does not arise. The bid, if it happens, will occur whilst the government still owns the company: the special share

provision has no relevance to the decision on whether or not it is acceptable for the bidder to gain control in this case.

Everything that has previously been said in parliament about this assumed a public flotation of the companies. But other means of privatisation were never ruled out. The taxpayer would be justifiably critical if I were now to turn down out of hand what might prove an advantageous offer for PowerGen.

The Electricity Act specifically provides for the continuation of the existing negotiation machinery for pay and industrial relations generally. It also protects the pension positions of all those who were employees or pensioners of the industry on vesting day - and this includes "no worst-case" provisions, which must be the envy of workers in many other industries.

In addition, I have just announced attractive special share offer provisions to employees throughout the industry that will enable them to take a stake in their own company. In the event of a sale of the company to a single purchaser, arrangements would also be made for PowerGen employees to receive benefits broadly comparable in financial terms to those they would have received in a public offering of the company's shares.

The sale of PowerGen will be decided in the best interests of this country. And whatever decision is ultimately reached, the electricity industry is set to become more open and more diverse - and I am confident that this will deliver lower costs and a better service to the customer.

John Lyons would like to return electricity supply to the cosy monopoly relationship of the past: I believe just as strongly that the new competitive structure will prove the making of a brighter future for the whole industry.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

British Lynk in power bid

SOMEWHERE at the Department of Energy there is an unofficial list of people and companies who will definitely not be allowed to buy PowerGen, the country's second biggest power generator and now the subject of a possible offer from Lord Hanson. At the top of the list are such notables as Colonel Gaddafi, Arthur Scargill and Gerry Adams. Further down are the Medellín cocaine syndicate and National Power. It is a fair bet that any organisation that has connections with the British coal industry, on whose output the generators are trying to become less dependent, is also unlikely to see its bid accepted. This makes it all the more curious that Roy Lynk, head of the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers, is attempting to raise the cash for a £1 billion-plus offer. Mr Lynk says he wants a "British-oriented consortium" to buy PowerGen, with the UDM as a "catalyst". He claims the cash will be forthcoming, with a few million pledged so far, although he has not approached Robert Maxwell, the millionaire publisher, for money. "I can see no justification for the government not allowing us to bid," he says. "I'm not talking off the top of my head." PowerGen was maintaining a dignified silence, despite the odd snigger in the background. The Department of Energy mumbled about "conflicts of interest" and said that the whole thing was theoretical.

Unnatural cost

AN aggrieved employee, and perhaps soon to be ex-employee, at National Power's Tilbury station has rung to complain about the £100,000 the company is spending on an "environment and nature centre" there, in conjunction with the local council and Essex Naturalist Trust. This concern with matters green is not distracting National Power from the task of deciding which 5,000 members of its workforce will go over the next five years, he says. The centre opens in September and is one of five similar attractions at power stations around the country. The group says nature tends to invade those parts of its plants the public is kept away from, so why not make a feature of



them? "It's an effort to show that industry can live in harmony with the environment," says a spokesman. This translates from corporate-speak as "It's good public relations."

Growing greener

THEY'RE after your green vote again. Paul Cook, the recently appointed scientific adviser to the Conservative party, has started a search for the 100 greenest companies in Britain, to be announced at the end of this year. Professor Cook is a medical research scientist and Professor of Laser Technology at Brunel University. He believes there are many British companies that are changing their policies to take account of environmental concerns, and that their new-found greenness should be highlighted. His staff were a little vague on whether the study had been commissioned by the government or the Conservative party, but I would think it is a fair bet it will eventually surface with Smith Square's imprimatur.

On the move

Philip Gibbs, ranked as the top analyst in the miscellaneous financials sector for five successive years until this year when he was narrowly pipped at the post by James Capel, has resigned from Laing & Cruckshank. Leaving two of his team-mates behind - Karen Bennett and Richard Furlong - he will be joining BZW in due course. But first he will take a ten-week

sabbatical to study architecture. "He loves going around looking at old houses," says a colleague. Gibbs, said to have commanded a salary and bonus running into six figures at Laing, decided to move to pastures new when it pulled out of market-making. "Without market-making the total commission toll in that sector doesn't amount to more than £400,000," an inside source reveals, "and I think Philip realised that that wasn't enough to support a team of three. It was he who approached BZW rather than the other way round."

Also on the move is Tony Westlake, former director of corporate finance at Kitcat & Aitken until the recent clear-out, who is joining Jon Sachs at the newly founded corporate finance division of Bank of Ireland. Jon's decision to resurface at Bank of Ireland after he left James Capel was chronicled in this column last month.

Meeting of hearts

DAVID Simpson, former financial journalist and now a director of Dewe Rogerson, the City public relations firm, has just had to break the news to his colleagues that he was married last Thursday week. His wife Elizabeth, known as Tink, is starting as she means to go on. David was forced to miss a Dewe Rogerson board meeting for the first time because it coincided with the wedding. "She wouldn't let me go," he complains.

Martin Waller

California insurers face ruling

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN LOS ANGELES

THE California insurance industry and its top state regulator, Roxoni Gillespie, will face each other in court again today to hear the decision on whether she can begin demanding rebates for some of the state's 17 million motorists.

But whatever the decision, by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Dzintra Janavasa, the losing side is certain to appeal. California's 400 insurance companies are seeking to stop Ms Gillespie implementing the rebate provisions of insurance reforms known as proposition 103, which became law two years ago and seeks a 20 per cent cut in car premiums from November 1987 levels. But under a previous legal ruling, companies that prove they have not made excessive profits from car insurance in the past will not have to give rebates.

Farmers Group, California's second largest insurer, owned by BAT Industries, has already said it does not expect to give any rebates.

Ms Gillespie has estimated a fair rate of return on car insurance to be between 11.2 per cent and 19 per cent. Most insurance companies claim they have made only 11.2 per cent. Meanwhile, the consumer activist Harvey Rosenfield, who wrote and campaigned for proposition 103, last week formally launched his second attempt to set up a state-run, non-profit-making insurance company. His first qualifying move is to collect 373,000 signatures.

BRUSSELS NOTEBOOK
Hit list heralds new strategy to boost air firms' exports

THE EUROPEAN Commission has drawn up a hit list of obstacles that dissuade European aeronautics firms from co-operating more closely to meet worldwide competition.

While the big passenger airlines think globally, other markets, such as domestic transport and the helicopter industry, remain segmented, the commission says.

An EC-wide export mechanism would help companies that are starved of export credit facilities other than those offered by their own country.

They also need less restrictive company tax laws, clearer merger rules and the removal of different national standards and certification procedures. Joint research should be encouraged but government assistance should be stamped out, says the commission, which will present its new strategy to EC industry ministers on September 21.

Brussels has allowed the West German government to pump £17.6 million into Daimler Benz on the grounds that the Bremen plant receiving the subsidy is in an economically depressed part of the country. The EC has also approved three earlier aid packages to Daimler.

Sir Leon Brittan, EC competition commissioner, wanted to open an inquiry but was outvoted by colleagues led by Martin Bangemann, the German in-

dustrial and internal market commissioner, and Bruce Millan, who runs EC regional policy. Sir Leon has taken a fairly hard line on subsidies to Rover and other European carmakers.

This suggests Brussels is split over the use of state subsidies to suck investment into depressed regions. The split could widen when East Germany, whose entire territory will be eligible for EC regional aid, is absorbed into the community. A soft line on state subsidies could therefore make the GDR a doubly attractive location for investment by West German car manufacturers.

BATTLELINES are drawn for another autumn struggle over car exhaust fumes between the commission and the greener European Parliament.

A committee of MEPs has voted for stricter exhaust limits than those proposed by the commission for cars between 1400 and 2000cc. Brussels' proposed limits would be among the toughest in industrialised countries. But Euro MPs, who have used their muscle before to cut fumes from small cars, want a further round of exhaust reductions in 1995.

Car makers have called for moderation from the European Parliament, fearing successive tightening of the rules will disrupt the design of new models. But they may well opt for the toughest exhaust limits to be on the safe side.

● CZECHOSLOVAKS may soon be eligible for £312 million worth of loans from the EC's development bank, following satisfaction in Brussels with their country's economic and political reform plans, according to Henning Christophersen, EC economic affairs commissioner.

The loans would come from the European Investment Bank, which borrows on international capital markets and lends money for development projects. Mr Christophersen says Czechoslovakia must rapidly change its banking and pricing systems, tighten its monetary and fiscal management and privatise its state monopolies.

● BRUSSELS begins two days of talks at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris today with the United States, Japan, South Korea and other shipbuilding countries to negotiate a phase-out of state subsidies to the world's shipyards. Some Asian firms boast an ability to compete without government money, but the EC wants a long enough grace period to allow European shipbuilders to streamline their operations before facing full competition. Brussels is also pushing for a procedure to settle disputes in order to dissuade competitors from taking the law into their own hands.

Peter Guilford

USM REVIEW

Capita buys out British Telecom share of joint venture in £1.3m deal

CAPITA, the management services group, has bought itself out of a joint venture with British Telecom in a deal worth £1.3 million. This gives the group full control of Telecom Capita, which was set up in October 1988. Telecom rapidly became one of Capita's most profitable divisions.

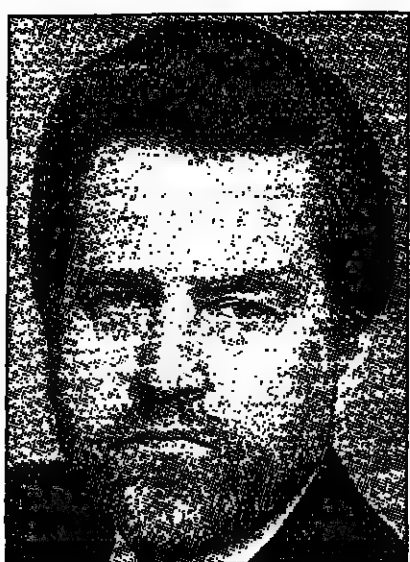
Rod Aldridge, Capita chairman, said the agreement would increase earnings and bring greater stability to the group's income. "We look forward to the rapid development of Telecom Capita under our full control, whilst maintaining our strong links with British Telecom."

Paul Pindar, group finance director, said Capita had changed since coming to the market in April last year. From an original core business of management and systems consultancy the company has expanded to provide a wide range of management services.

Capita is one of the few management consultancy businesses to target the public sector. Mr Pindar said the company's aim was to line up a steady flow of business. "Our objective is to provide a wide range of management services to the public sector and to enhance the quality of our income by selling longer-term contracts. One way or another, we appear to have achieved it."

Telecom Capita won contracts worth £25 million last year. Its biggest deal so far, with Berkshire county council, will provide a steady flow of business over the next five years. The company is pursuing up to five further bids, and expects to announce more deals within the next three months.

Telecom Capita runs the poll tax billing system on behalf of several local authorities. The decision to concentrate



Aldridge: maintaining links with BT

on winning local government contracts is likely to stand Capita in good stead. The poll tax will provide a steady stream of business, while consultancy and training in general management and information technology will remain in demand.

Many councils will be updating their financial systems, and Capita can be expected to bid aggressively for contracts. Apart from advising on technology and computers, it can provide help with training, public relations, corporate finance and provision of temporary staff.

Capita made pre-tax profits of £1.3 million in the year to last December, and is expected to double that this year. A full listing is expected within 18 months.

Jon Ashworth

Changing tack at Wensum

WHEN Wensum joined the USM a year ago, the main objective of Andrew Hughes, the chairman, was to maximise all the benefits of a public listing in order to expand the company.

But he quickly discovered that the day-to-day running of a public company was a time-consuming operation that left him little time for other matters. He found that he was spreading himself too thinly and attracting criticism from some of his institutional shareholders, who were demanding greater expansion.

Mr Hughes has just strengthened Wensum's management with the appointment of a new commercial director, which will allow him more time to concentrate on the group's future.

The new incumbent, Philip Mitzman, will take over the day-to-day running of Wensum's clothing division, which designs and manufactures own-label men's quality suits, blazers and formal wear for leading high street retailers. He will be

responsible for all sales, technical design, production planning, purchasing and distribution.

Meanwhile, the group's other division, Wensum Corporate, specialising in designing, making and distributing corporate uniforms and career wear, is performing well. It supplies a number of blue chip clients, including Lloyds Bank, Air Canada, Ford Motor and the London Electricity Board.

In its first year on the USM, Wensum lifted pre-tax profits 22 per cent to £635,000. The group last year signed a sizeable contract supplying WH Smith, and analysts are forecasting pre-tax profits of at least £750,000 for the current year. Originally a management buy-out from Hornes, after it was bought by Sears, Wensum came to market via a placing of shares at 70p. On Friday they closed at 61p.

Michael Clark

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100

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1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
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1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume
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1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100
1,000,000 ABB	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	100

Court of Appeal

Conflict over intent in assault cases

Regina v Parmenter
Before Lord Justice Mustill, Mr Justice Waterhouse and Mr Justice Swinton Thomas
(Judgment July 20)

Court of Appeal decisions in *R v Spratt* (The Times May 14) and *R v Savage* (The Times May 18), on the degree of intent necessary to establish an offence of assault occasioning actual bodily harm under section 47 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861, were in conflict.

Their Lordships preferred the conclusion expressed in *Spratt*, and held that the prosecution had to establish, as for the offence of unlawfully and maliciously wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm under section 20, that the accused intended to cause the particular kind of harm specified in the section or was reckless as to that consequence; it was not sufficient to establish that he had committed an assault which had caused the harm.

The state of the law in that area was unsatisfactory but beyond resolution by the Court of Appeal.

The Court of Appeal, in a reserved judgment, allowed the appeal of Philip Mark Parmenter against his conviction on February 22, 1989 in Chelmsford Crown Court (Judge Taylor and a jury) of four offences of inflicting grievous bodily harm contrary to section 20 of the 1861 Act, on which he was sentenced to a total of five years imprisonment.

He had pleaded guilty to one offence of cruelty to a person under 16, contrary to section 1(1) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933, on which he was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment concurrent.

Mr Ahab Jafferjee, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Colin Woodford and Mr Richard Daniel for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE MUSTILL said that all the counts on the indictment related to injuries caused to the appellant's baby son, aged some three months. The baby had suffered injuries to the bony structures of his legs and right forearm and the appellant did not dispute that those injuries had been caused by rough handling on his part.

The only issue at the trial was whether the appellant had acted with the necessary intent, his case being that he had no experience with small babies and did not realise that handling which (as was accepted by a paediatrician at the trial) would not be inappropriate when handling a three to four year old child would be quite inappropriate with a new born baby.

On the crucial issue of intent the trial judge directed the jury, *inter alia*, that it was "unnecessary that the accused should have foreseen that his unlawful act might cause physical harm" of the type described in the section. It was "enough that he should have foreseen that some physical harm to

some person, albeit of a minor character, might result".

At first sight that direction seemed unexceptionable, containing as it did a direct quotation from *R v Mowatt* (1968) 1 QB 421. Yet on closer inspection it could be seen to be flawed because by directing the jury by reference to only part of the passage in *Mowatt* the judge had inadvertently imparted a fundamental change to the principle laid down there.

When the judgment in *Mowatt* was read as a whole it seemed clear that the court was stating two propositions, one positive and one negative.

The positive proposition was that a defendant could not be convicted under section 20 unless he actually foresaw that physical harm to some other person would be the consequence of his act. That was subject to a negative qualification that the defendant need not actually have foreseen that the harm would be as grave as that which in the event occurred.

Their Lordships believed that in *Mowatt* the words "should have foreseen" were intended to bear the same meaning as "did foresee" or simply "foresee". Read out of context, however, the ordinary meaning of "should have" was "ought to have".

By reading the passage to the jurors in isolation from its context the judge thus inadvertently created a real risk that the jurors would believe that they were being directed to ask themselves, not whether the appellant actually foresaw that his acts would cause injury, but whether he ought to have foreseen it.

That was an ambiguity which went to the heart of the case, for while there was a possibility that the jury might feel doubt about whether the appellant actually intended to injure the child, the serious question was whether he ought to have foreseen that he would.

There was thus an important misdirection. There could be no question of applying the proviso, and the convictions on the four counts under section 20 were therefore quashed. Their Lordships then had to decide whether they could and should substitute for the convictions quashed alternative verdicts under section 47 of the 1861 Act, a course which could be taken only if, assuming in the appellant's favour that the injuries were foreseeable but not actually foreseen, the necessary element of intent for that offence was present.

A curious situation had emerged because only a few days before the present appeal was heard, two divisions of the Court of Appeal had, by a remarkable coincidence, delivered judgment on the necessary intent for section 47 at precisely the same time, but had unfortunately reached opposite conclusions: see *Spratt* and *Savage*.

Those cases to have decided as follows:

Spratt
1 The decision on the particular facts was that where the defendant did not intend to do any kind of physical contact with the complainant, and did not recognise that there was a risk of contact, the offence under section 47 was not made out.

2 The decision also established (or reiterated in the light of *R v Iemma* (1976) QB 421) that so far as intent was concerned the test was the same for section 47 as it was for section 20, that is, the *R v Cunningham* test (1957) 2 QB 396, which required an intention to do "the particular kind of harm".

Although in *Spratt* the court did not refer to *Mowatt* their Lordships believed it had to follow that that expression had the same meaning for the purposes of section 47 as it was given in *Mowatt* for the purposes of section 20, that is, "any physical harm".

Savage
1 The decision on the particular facts was that where the defendant intended to do an act, amounting to an assault, and in the course of it unintentionally did an act, which caused the actual bodily harm of which the complainant was injured, all the elements of an offence under section 47 were present.

2 The case did not decide anything about the position where the defendant did not intend to make any contact with the complainant.

It seemed to their Lordships that those decisions were in conflict as to a case where there was some intention or recklessness about the degree of contact necessary to make an assault.

To decide the present case, their Lordships were obliged to resolve that conflict, and after careful consideration had to prefer *Spratt*, which was founded on a line of authority leading directly to the conclusion that the necessary intent was the intention to do physical harm, and that for so long as *Mowatt* remained the law the possibility of any physical harm was what the jury, when assessing that subjective element, should be invited to consider.

Their Lordships did not disguise their opinion that the law so stated would in marginal cases be as unworkable in practice as it was objectionable in theory. They could do nothing about that, only the House of Lords could do so, but the subject on an even keel.

Solicitors: CPS, Essex.

Although the maximum sentences for offences under sections 20 and 47 were the same, nobody could doubt that the two offences were seen in quite different terms by defendants, their advisers and sentencing judges.

Yet if the *Cunningham* subjective test combined with the low level of intent prescribed by *Mowatt* was applied to section 47 in the same way as to section 20, the moral overtones of the two offences became indistinguishable and the differences between the two depended upon variations between the levels of physical injury suffered in the individual case, which might often be the result of chance.

Second, it was impossible to contemplate the instant appeal without dismay, at a time when "middle-rank criminal violence was a dismally feature of modern urban life, and when convictions and pleas of guilty on charges under section 47 occupied so much of crown court lists, it seemed scarcely credible that 129 years after the enactment of the Offences against the Person Act three appeals should be brought to the Court of Appeal which revealed the law to be so impenetrable.

Their Lordships believed that the authorities could no longer live together and that the reason lay in a collision between two ideas, logically and morally sustainable in themselves, but mutually inconsistent, about whether the unforeseen consequences of a wrongful act should be punished according to the intent (*Cunningham*) or the consequences (*Mowatt*).

Until the whole matter had been reviewed by a higher court, their Lordships could do no better than to suggest to trial judges that subjective intent and subjective appreciation of the risk were the touchstones for which the jury should look, and that for so long as *Mowatt* remained the law the possibility of any physical harm was what the jury, when assessing that subjective element, should be invited to consider.

Their Lordships did not disguise their opinion that the law so stated would in marginal cases be as unworkable in practice as it was objectionable in theory. They could do nothing about that, only the House of Lords could do so, but the subject on an even keel.

Solicitors: CPS, Essex.

LORD BRIDGE said that a trade union was entitled, pursuant to section 1 of the Employment Act 1980 and regulations made thereunder to reimbursement of its expenditure in the conduct of a national ballot for its national executive committee.

Mr Patrick Elias, QC and Mr Timothy Pitt-Payne for the union; Mr David Pannick for the certification officer.

LORD BRIDGE said that a trade union was entitled, pursuant to section 1 of the Employment Act 1980 and regulations made thereunder to reimbursement of its expenditure in the conduct of a national ballot for its national executive committee.

Solicitors: CPS, Essex.

Law Report July 30 1990

Regina v Certification Officer for Trade Unions and Employers' Associations, Ex parte Electrical Power Engineers' Association

Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Griffiths, Lord Ackner and Lord Jauncey of Tulliclete
(Speeches July 19)

The result of a national ballot for a trade union's national executive committee which had been conducted in accordance with its rules limiting the number of persons from any one division of the union who could be elected to that committee, with the result that a candidate from a division which already had the maximum number of seats permitted by the rules was not elected even though he had received more votes than a candidate from a different division who was elected, had been determined solely by counting the number of votes cast directly by those voting for the purposes of regulation 11(f) of the Funds for Trade Union Ballots Regulations (SI 1984 No 1654).

Regulation 11(f) therefore did not operate to defeat the union's claim under the 1984 Regulations for reimbursement of its expenditure incurred in the conduct of the ballot.

The House of Lords so held, allowing an appeal by the union, the Electrical Power Engineers' Association, from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Parker and Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Sir John Megaw) (The Times December 5, 1989; [1990] ICR 156), who had allowed the appeal of the Certification Officer for Trade Unions and Employers' Associations from Mr Justice Roch (1990) ICR 156.

The judge had granted the union judicial review by way of certiorari to quash the certification officer's decision to disallow its claim under the 1984 Regulations for reimbursement of its expenditure incurred in the conduct of a national ballot for its national executive committee.

Mr Patrick Elias, QC and Mr Timothy Pitt-Payne for the union; Mr David Pannick for the certification officer.

LORD BRIDGE said that a trade union was entitled, pursuant to section 1 of the Employment Act 1980 and regulations made thereunder to reimbursement of its expenditure in the conduct of a national ballot for its national executive committee.

Solicitors: CPS, Essex.

House of Lords

Election held by union rules valid

Regina v Certification Officer for Trade Unions and Employers' Associations, Ex parte Electrical Power Engineers' Association

Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Griffiths, Lord Ackner and Lord Jauncey of Tulliclete
(Speeches July 19)

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The judge had granted the union judicial review by way of certiorari to quash the certification officer's decision to disallow its claim under the 1984 Regulations for reimbursement of its expenditure incurred in the conduct of a national ballot for its national executive committee.

Mr Patrick Elias, QC and Mr Timothy Pitt-Payne for the union; Mr David Pannick for the certification officer.

LORD BRIDGE said that a trade union was entitled, pursuant to section 1 of the Employment Act 1980 and regulations made thereunder to reimbursement of its expenditure in the conduct of a national ballot for its national executive committee.

Solicitors: CPS, Essex.

Medical evidence for mitigation

Regina v Moore (Archibald)
Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Garland
(Judgment July 17)

Possible shortened life expectancy of an offender who was HIV positive was held to be a factor in mitigation of his sentence.

The certification officer had disallowed the union's application for reimbursement of its expenditure incurred in the conduct of a national ballot for its national executive committee.

The House of Lords so held, allowing an appeal by the union, the Electrical Power Engineers' Association, from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Parker and Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Sir John Megaw) (The Times December 5, 1989; [1990] ICR 156), who had allowed the appeal of the Certification Officer for Trade Unions and Employers' Associations from Mr Justice Roch (1990) ICR 156.

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Solicitors: CPS, Essex.

Equal treatment

Blaik v Department of Health and Social Security

The supplementary benefit legislation treated both members of a married or an unmarried couple as alike, irrespective of whether the applicant was a man or a woman.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Parker, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Megaw) (The Times December 5, 1989; [1990] ICR 156), who had allowed the appeal of the Certification Officer for Trade Unions and Employers' Associations from Mr Justice Roch (1990) ICR 156.

The judge had granted the union judicial review by way of certiorari to quash the certification officer's decision to disallow its claim under the 1984 Regulations for reimbursement of its

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you prize money, stated if you follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Close	Div
1	PPA Hudson	Industrial L-R	125	1.00
2	Providence	Bank, Discount	125	1.00
3	Leeds Ltd	Property	125	1.00
4	Alfred Dunham Ltd	Revenues	125	1.00
5	Griffiths	Property	125	1.00
6	Finco	Chemicals, Plastics	125	1.00
7	Johns	Food	125	1.00
8	Johns	Food	125	1.00
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100	Johns	Food	125	1.00

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

There were no valid claims for the weekend Portfolio Platinum game, so the £4,000 prize is held over.

BRITISH FUNDS

Stock out-standings

Price on Friday

Change on Friday

Dividend

Yield

Shorts (Under Five Years)

1971-1980

1981-1990

1991-2000

2001-2010

2011-2020

2021-2030

2031-2040

2041-2050

2051-2060

2061-2070

2071-2080

2081-2090

2091-2100

2101-2110

2111-2120

2121-2130

2131-2140

2141-2150

2151-2160

2161-2170

2171-2180

2181-2190

2191-2200

2201-2210

2211-2220

2221-2230

2231-2240

2241-2250

2251-2260

2261-2270

2271-2280

2281-2290

2291-2300

2301-2310

2311-2320

2321-2330

2331-2340

2341-2350

2351-2360

2361-2370

2371-2380

2381-2390

2391-2400

2401-2410

2411-2420

2421-2430

2431-2440

2441-2450

2451-2460

2461-2470

2471-2480

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Capitalisation and change on week

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begun July 23. Dealings end August 3. Contango day August 6. Settlement day August 13.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks.

COMPANIES

Company Price Change Dividend Yield P/E

175 1st General 796 +1 25.3 8.5 6.7

176 1st General 796 +1 25.3 8.5 6.7

177 1st General 796 +1 25.3 8.5 6.7

178 1st General 796 +1 25.3 8.5 6.7

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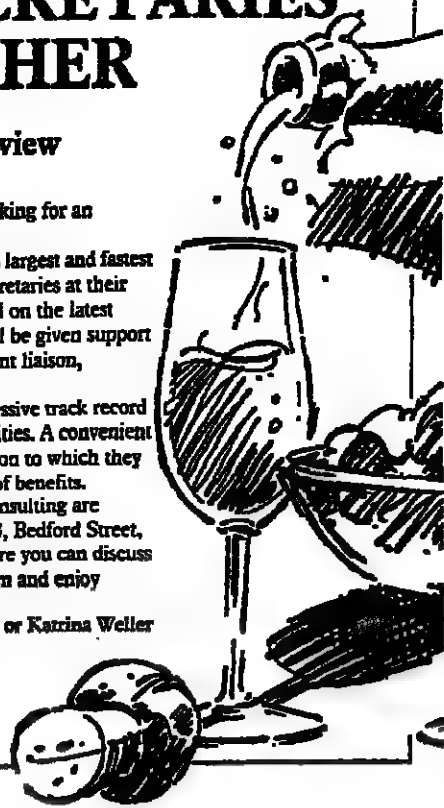
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Bold Russian holds best credentials for intriguing event

By MANDARIN

NEWCASTLE'S imaginative scheduling of a group race on Monday, traditionally the weakest racing day, has again reaped its due reward with an intriguing contest.

The Federation Brewery Classic Lager Beeswing Stakes is one of a relatively rare breed of race which caters for high-class seven furlong horses, so form at this distance needs to be the prime consideration.

With that in mind, Bold Russian has excellent credentials. He has improved throughout the season, winning handicaps at Newcastle, over this trip, and then over a mile at the Curragh.

However, the performance which underlines his chance here is his first head second to Sally Route in the seven-furlong Jersey Stakes, also a group three race, at Royal Ascot last month. He was not helped by having to be switched to challenge two furlongs out, although it is arguable whether that manoeuvre made the difference between victory and defeat.

On that run he holds Robellion, who was well behind in eighth and re-appears on the same terms. Phountzi and Montefiore are likely to pose more potent threats, although both have questions to answer.

Phountzi, highly regarded by his stable, has been lightly raced after splitting a pastern last season. He returned with a fair eight lengths fourth to Markofinduction in a group two race at Sandown in April



Hills: high hopes for Bold Russian

but has not raced since. Even as a four-year-old he has his share of potential although his achievements do not yet measure up to those of Bold Russian.

Montefiore has done more racing but connections seem undecided about his best trip. After a good second to Rock City in the Greenham Stakes over today's distance, he twice ran over six furlongs, on the second occasion making late progress to finish 2½ lengths fourth to Polar Bird at Newmarket. However, Barry Hills, who trains both Bold Russian and Polar Bird, should have a clear idea of where he stands with Montefiore.

In the Federation Brewery Best Scotch Handicap 1 side with Ashford, a previous distance winner. He quickened well to win from Scottish Reform at Edinburgh last month and then may have

found the extended mile at Beverley beyond him when eighth to Batuszka. Pusey Street Boy, also a distance winner, is preferred as the danger to Military Shot, who is not easy to place despite some good form of his own over seven furlongs.

Whatever the fate of Pusey Street Boy, Richard Hannon should not leave the meeting empty-handed as Rapid Coracle has a clear-cut chance in the Maiden Auction Stakes. He was an encouraging fifth to the useful Alimaam at Salisbury last month and has less to do here.

At Lingfield, Rasan can record his fourth win in five starts in the Personnel Selection Handicap. He made all under top weight to win easily over this course and distance nine days ago and he is difficult to oppose while he remains in such good form.

Chadbban will have few better opportunities than in the Steel Selling Stakes, while Lear Leader (2.0) and Yalanou (3.0) should justify likely short-priced favourites.

However, for the nap I turn to Wolverhampton's evening meeting and Quagline in the Robbie Dennison Maiden Stakes. He was an encouraging running-on 1½ lengths third to Saturday's Newcastle winner Tiger Flow at Sandown earlier this month, and the step up in distance, coupled with less demanding opposition, suggests he has fine prospects of gaining his first success.

British profit from raid on Germany

JOHN Gosden's Maximilian, who returned to the winner's enclosure on Saturday, was given a confident ride by George Duffield as he ran out a convincing winner of the group three £21,978 Ostermann-Pokal (1m) at Cologne yesterday.

Duffield delayed his challenge until well inside the final furlong on Maximilian, who ran on well to beat the local hero Zille by three-quarters of a length.

Neil Graham's impeccably bred filly Night Of Stars (Walter Swinburn), who paid 14-10, completed a long-range British double, by giving her Newmarket trainer his first foreign success in the £7,236 listed Preis Landeshauptstadt (1m) in Munich.

However, the British pair Dashing Blade (John Matthews) and Treble Eight (Swinburn) both met defeat at the hands of that impressive German year-old Turkfinn in the feature event, the £4,102 Grosser Mercedes-Benz Preis-Bayernisches Zuchtrennen (100) on the same Munich card.

Turkfinn was pushed through a gap on the rails by Georg Bockstall well over a furlong out and the combination stayed on well to hold Dashing Blade a length, while Treble Eight a neck further behind in the group one race.

However, it should be a happy day for Maximilian as he allowed Turkfinn to creep through on the inner as well as allowing his mount to drift.

Earlier, Duffield's Maximilian (Maurice Zwart) won the second time in Germany this season, when she was beaten by (Lagan) and Scharja (Cash Muehlen) in the £12,850 Listed Meet at Chandon Preis-Grosser Sprint-Preis von Bayern over an extended six furlongs.

Willie Carson won a small handicap at Munich, when his mount Jack Betz just justified favouritism in the Authi Rennen over seven furlongs.

At Etry on Saturday, Christian Wall's Candy Glen defied top weight to win the £22,357 Prix Daphnis in the style of a very good colt. Candy Glen, backed down to 7-2, was sent to the front by Tony Cruz two furlongs out and stretched clear to beat Eightsome and Alain Lequeux by six lengths. John Gosden's Thakib was a non-runner.

That performance was good enough for Wall to aim Candy Glen at the group one Prix Jacques Le Marois at Deauville on August 12, when he is likely to meet Machiavellian and Al Daboudi.

Stephen Craine looked back over his shoulder three times in the last furlong at non-existent dangers before finally relaxing his reins and allowed Kostroma to strike the front.

This result provided yet a further boost for the Bicentenary Handicap at the Curragh two weeks ago, in which Caerless Writing beat

Kostroma earns Nassau tilt

From OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT, DUBLIN

MONTFIERE and Kostroma in a three-way photo finish.

The previous Saturday, Montefiore had won the Golden Pages Handicap here, but there is now argument that Caerless Writing should be disqualified in the £15,000 EBF Orby Stakes.

The reason for this is that the handicapper, who had raised the 15lb in other handicaps of this type, had neglected to give her a penalty at the Curragh, although an appeal had been lodged on her behalf against Clive Britain's Game Plan, the winner of the Sea World Pretty Polly Stakes.

That appeal has yet to be heard and, according to rule 179, appellants are supposed to carry penalties in all races awaiting the outcome of such cases.

Tim Bolger continues to run rampant with his two-year-olds and Nordic Soprano, second to Time Gentlemen in the Railway Stakes, justifies 7-4 favourite in the £15,000 EBF Orby Stakes.

Christy Roche was supposed to have ridden his unbeaten stable companion Nazoo, but she was found to be in season and Roche switched to Nordic Soprano.

Michael Kinane certainly rode the right one when teaming up with Belmez (by El Gran Senor) at Ascot, but anyone he left behind another winning progeny of El Gran Senor in the smart juvenile debutant Flowing.

WINDSOR

Selections

By Mandarin

6.10 Kurrageg, 6.35 Taylor's Realm, 7.0 For Real, 7.30 La Domine, 8.00 Katilw, 8.30 Trigon.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

6.10 Siberian Flower, 6.35 La Visir, 7.0 Grey Wolf, 7.30 Aqua Noir, 8.0 Aunt Hester, 8.30 Regina Royale.

Going: good to firm

Draw: 51-6F, high numbers best

51-6F, CANCELLER RELIEF MAXIMILIAN FUND MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O; £2,621; 5f) (15 runners)

1 AFFORDABLE 7 (P) M Carter 9-4
2 ARTURIAN 11 (P) M Johnson 9-4
3 BAYVIEW 27 (P) M Johnson 9-4
4 BAYVIEW 27 (P) M Johnson 9-4
5 BAYVIEW 27 (P) M Johnson 9-4
6 BAYVIEW 27 (P) M Johnson 9-4
7 BAYVIEW 27 (P) M Johnson 9-4
8 BAYVIEW 27 (P) M Johnson 9-4
9 BAYVIEW 27 (P) M Johnson 9-4
10 BAYVIEW 27 (P) M Johnson 9-4
11 BAYVIEW 27 (P) M Johnson 9-4
12 BAYVIEW 27 (P) M Johnson 9-4
13 BAYVIEW 27 (P) M Johnson 9-4
14 BAYVIEW 27 (P) M Johnson 9-4
15 BAYVIEW 27 (P) M Johnson 9-4

6.35 BPOC HANDICAP (£2,682; 1m 3f 150yd) (14)

1 VINTAGE 40 (P) M Johnson 9-4
2 VINTAGE 40 (P) M Johnson 9-4
3 VINTAGE 40 (P) M Johnson 9-4
4 VINTAGE 40 (P) M Johnson 9-4
5 VINTAGE 40 (P) M Johnson 9-4
6 VINTAGE 40 (P) M Johnson 9-4
7 VINTAGE 40 (P) M Johnson 9-4
8 VINTAGE 40 (P) M Johnson 9-4
9 VINTAGE 40 (P) M Johnson 9-4
10 VINTAGE 40 (P) M Johnson 9-4
11 VINTAGE 40 (P) M Johnson 9-4
12 VINTAGE 40 (P) M Johnson 9-4
13 VINTAGE 40 (P) M Johnson 9-4
14 VINTAGE 40 (P) M Johnson 9-4

6.10 ZETLAND STUD CLAIMING STAKES (£3,281; 6f) (16)

1 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
2 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
3 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
4 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
5 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
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13 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
14 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
15 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
16 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4

6.15 ROBBI DENNIS MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O; £2,682; 5f) (10)

1 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
2 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
3 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
4 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
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9 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
10 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4

6.15 GILFILLAN TURNER SELLING STAKES (2-Y-O; £2,682; 5f) (10)

1 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
2 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
3 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
4 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
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9 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
10 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4

6.15 ROBBI DENNIS MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O; £2,682; 5f) (10)

1 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
2 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
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10 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4

6.15 ROBBI DENNIS MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O; £2,682; 5f) (10)

1 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
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10 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4

6.15 ROBBI DENNIS MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O; £2,682; 5f) (10)

1 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
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10 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4

6.15 ROBBI DENNIS MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O; £2,682; 5f) (10)

1 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
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10 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4

6.15 ROBBI DENNIS MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O; £2,682; 5f) (10)

1 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
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8 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
9 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
10 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4

7.30 ARLINGTON SECURITIES HANDICAP (£3,340; 1m 70yd) (17)

1 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
2 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
3 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
4 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
5 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
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14 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
15 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
16 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
17 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4

8.0 RACECOURSE NURSERY HANDICAP STAKES (2-Y-O; £2,978; 6f) (13)

1 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
2 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
3 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
4 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
5 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
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12 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
13 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4

8.30 SWAN HANDICAP STAKES (3-Y-O; £2,540; 1m 2f 20yd) (7)

1 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
2 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
3 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
4 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
5 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
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7 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4

8.30 SWAN HANDICAP STAKES (3-Y-O; £2,540; 1m 2f 20yd) (7)

1 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
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8.30 SWAN HANDICAP STAKES (3-Y-O; £2,540; 1m 2f 20yd) (7)

1 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
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7 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4

8.30 SWAN HANDICAP STAKES (3-Y-O; £2,540; 1m 2f 20yd) (7)

1 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
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1 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
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1 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
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8.30 SWAN HANDICAP STAKES (3-Y-O; £2,540; 1m 2f 20yd) (7)

1 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
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8.30 SWAN HANDICAP STAKES (3-Y-O; £2,540; 1m 2f 20yd) (7)

1 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
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7 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4

NEWCASTLE

Selections

By Mandarin

2.15 Rapid Coracle, 2.45 Ashford, 3.15 Bold Russian, 3.45 Europe, 4.15 Young Jazz, 4.45 Golden Divot.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.15 Zloty, 2.45 Military Shot, 3.15 Phountzi, 4.15, 4.45 Golden Daffodil.

Michael Seely's selection: 3.15 BOLD RUSSIAN (nap).

The Times Private Handicap's top rating: 2.15 RAPID CORACLE.

Going: good to firm Draw: no advantage SIS

2.15 FEDERATION BREWERY PALE ALE MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-O; £2,488; 6f) (6 runners)

1 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
2 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
3 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
4 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
5 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
6 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4

2.45 FEDERATION BREWERY BEST SCOTCH HANDICAP (For the Harry Pascock Memorial Challenge Cup; 3-Y-O; £4,659; 7f) (7 runners)

1 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
2 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
3 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
4 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
5 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
6 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
7 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4

3.15 FEDERATION BREWERY CLASSIC LAGER BEESWING STAKES (Group III; £18,238; 7f) (6 runners)

1 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
2 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
3 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
4 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
5 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
6 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4

3.45 FEDERATION BREWERY CLASSIC LAGER BEESWING STAKES (Group III; £18,238; 7f) (6 runners)

1 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
2 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
3 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
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6 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4

3.45 FEDERATION BREWERY CLASSIC LAGER BEESWING STAKES (Group III; £18,238; 7f) (6 runners)

1 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
2 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
3 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
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6 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4

3.45 FEDERATION BREWERY CLASSIC LAGER BEESWING STAKES (Group III; £18,238; 7f) (6 runners)

1 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
2 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
3 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
4 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
5 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
6 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4

3.45 FEDERATION BREWERY CLASSIC LAGER BEESWING STAKES (Group III; £18,238; 7f) (6 runners)

1 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
2 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
3 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
4 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
5 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
6 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4

3.45 FEDERATION BREWERY LCL PILS LAGER HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £2,616; 1m) (8 runners)

1 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
2 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
3 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
4 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
5 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
6 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
7 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
8 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4

3.45 FEDERATION BREWERY LCL PILS LAGER HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £2,616; 1m) (8 runners)

1 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4
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8 6641 VINTAGE 7 (P) M Johnson 9-4

3.45 FEDERATION BREWERY LCL PILS LAGER HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £2,616; 1m) (8 runners)

SPORT

Gavaskar rejects MCC life membership offer

By QAMAR AHMED

SUNIL Gavaskar, the former Indian Test captain, has refused honorary life membership of MCC in a protest against discrimination at Lord's.

Gavaskar, aged 41, the holder of the record for playing in most Test matches (125), scoring most Test centuries (34) and making the highest number of runs (10,122), did not cite any reasons for his refusal in a letter to MCC, but his friends believe he wanted to make a stand against what he regards as the insulting and humiliating behaviour of some of the MCC stewards on duty at the Grace Gate and at the Nursery End entrance.

Gavaskar remembers particularly an incident when he was playing at Lord's for the last time — for the Rest of the World against MCC in celebration of the MCC's centenary of MCC in 1987. Gavaskar, having made 188 not out, left the ground to pick up his jacket from the team's coach and was refused re-entry despite his pleas that he was playing in the match. He was eventually allowed into the ground.

Gavaskar said yesterday: "On no grounds in the world have I encountered such rude and ruthless behaviour by the stewards. They are so uncooperative. I had told them that I was playing in the

match and my pass was in the dressing-room. I asked them to ring the dressing-room and they would not listen to me.

"If Lord's is considered to be the Mecca of cricket and MCC is custodian, then they should have people at the gate who can at least recognise the current Test players and the ones playing in the match on the day. I can imagine if a player has become an old man of 80 and nobody recognised him, then I wouldn't blame anybody."

Gavaskar had another brush with the stewards at Lord's last week. On the eve of the England v India Test match, he went to Lord's to hand over his copy to the

correspondent of the newspaper for whom he was writing. He was detained at the Nursery End gate before being brought in by someone who knew him.

The secretary of MCC, Lieutenant Colonel John Stephenson, confirmed yesterday that Gavaskar had been made an offer of honorary life membership late last year and had declined. Col Stephenson added: "He said that it was because of personal reasons. He did not elaborate the reasons for his refusal."

When informed about Gavaskar's incident in the MCC's centenary match, Col Stephenson said: "I am very sorry to know

about it. Since I have been in office, I have given instructions to all the people at Lord's to be on their best behaviour."

Gavaskar is not the first leading player to be annoyed by attitudes at Lord's. During the 1987 Test between England and Pakistan, Majid Khan, a former captain of Pakistan, and some journalists were detained at the main gate, before being allowed to collect their media passes.

MCC, whose president is Sir Denys Roberts, remains the most prestigious cricket club in the world. Through belonging to the Cricket Council and the Test and County Cricket Board, it plays an

active role in the administration of cricket and has responsibility for the laws of the game. Despite a reduction of 2,000 in membership during the past 18 months — there are now about 17,500 members — the waiting list takes 20 years.

Honorary cricket and life membership is granted to cricketers and administrators who are considered to have done well for the game. They include Denis Compton, Farrokh Engineer, Sir Leonard Hutton, Alan Knott, Peter May, Sir Garfield Sobers and Gundappa Vishwanath, to name but a few. Nobody has refused an invitation to such membership in the last ten years.



Gavaskar protests

New Zealand end their four-year wait



Victory drive: Blyth Tait, of New Zealand, and Messiah, the individual gold medal winners, clear the final jump in the cross-country on Saturday

Fresh reign begins in irony

From JENNY MACARTHUR IN STOCKHOLM

THE packed Olympic stadium erupted here last night when, with a fine sense of irony, New Zealand captured the World Championship three-day event title which they had been on the point of winning four years ago.

With outstanding displays of horsemanship from all four of their team riders, New Zealand completed their overwhelming domination of these championships when Blyth Tait and Messiah held on to their overnight lead in yesterday's difficult final show-jumping phase to take the individual title. With Mark Todd, already the reigning Olympic champion, New Zealand have now replaced Britain at the forefront of the sport.

Ian Stark, the hero of the British team, completed a clear round on Murphy Himself yesterday to win the individual silver medal and secure the team silver medal for Great Britain ahead of West Germany, the bronze medal winners. It was a rewarding result for Britain, who, after the disastrous cross-country round of Virginia Leng, the defending world champion, on Saturday, had looked unlikely to finish in the medals.

Bruce Davidson of the

United States, the only rider to have won a world championship title twice, moved up to the individual bronze medal position on Pirate Lion after two of the riders ahead of him, the Frenchman, Didier Seguret on Newlot, and Andrew Nicholson, of New Zealand, on Spinning Rhombus, both had disappointing show-jumping rounds and dropped out of the medals.

New Zealand had been untypically reluctant to celebrate until yesterday — despite their commanding 48-point lead at the start of the show-jumping. Four years ago in Australia at the last world championships they had also been in the team gold and individual gold medal position.

NICOLE Uphoff, the West German Olympic and European dressage champion, increased the gap between herself and her rivals yesterday when she won the World Dressage Championship in Stockholm on the 13-year-old Westphalian gelding, Rembrandt (Jenny MacArthur writes).

There was an inspired performance which achieved an unprecedented 1,569 marks. Wolfgang Niggli, the Swiss president of the five judges, said it was the highest

score he had seen in a dressage competition.

When Uphoff, aged 23, who works in her father's transport business, was asked afterwards what ambitions she had left, she replied: "To continue at this level... and to defend my Olympic title in Barcelona."

The individual silver medal went to Kyra Kyrklund, of Finland, on Matador, to rapturous acclaim from the 25,000 crowd in the Olympic stadium.

Monica Theodorescu, who helped West Germany win the team gold medal on Friday, took the bronze on Ganimeas.

Despite the 87 marks which separated Kyrklund from Uphoff, she could not have been more delighted with her silver medal. Matador, the magnificent Danish-bred stallion, had an operation for a twisted gut 14 months ago.

While New Zealand's team victory had been a virtual certainty by the start of the show jumping, Britain had held only a 12-point lead over the West Germans for the silver medal.

Karen Straker, who collected a frustrating 20 penalties at the water on the cross country — Miss Straker's *été noire* — rode a confident round incurring just five penalties at the last part of the treble.

With Edith Beine, of West Germany, incurring 10 penalties and Marina Lohsei five, the gap between the two had widened by the time Rodney Powell and The Irishman came into the ring. Powell,

who had also collected 20 penalties on Saturday's cross country, used up half the advantage with an untypical 10 penalties.

The pressure was then on Stark to produce a clear round both for an individual medal and to secure the team silver. Stark, whose daring and exhilarating cross country round on Murphy Himself has been a talking point of these championships — produced another superb, if hair-raising clear round, to add the world championship individual silver medal to his Olympic individual silver medal and to restore to Britain some much-needed glory.

Mrs Leng, who had seen her chances of retaining the world title collapse with a fall at the bullfinch fence on the cross country, went some way to atoning for this by producing one of only four clear rounds within the time in yesterday's show jumping. Typically she blamed herself for Saturday.

"I'm very cross — I feel I could have avoided the fall by jumping a different part of the fence but I didn't want to give Griffin another 'drop'. It transpired afterwards that the 10-year-old Griffin had lost two front shoes during the cross country.

Susanna Macaire and Master Marius, Britain's individual rider, withdrew from the championships yesterday morning when her horse was not represented at the final horse inspection.

RESULTS: Individual: 1, Rembrandt (N Uphoff, W) 1,569pts; 2, Matador (K Kyrklund, F) 1,482; 3, Ganimeas (M Theodorescu, W) 1,458; 4, Corandus (M Otto-Crispin, F) 1,452; 5, Gauguin de Lully (C Stuckelberger, S) 1,434; 6, Ideal (S Rothemann, W) 1,420.

British place: 13, Dutch Gold (J Lorinson-Clarke), 1,312; 18, Rubel von Unkenmüt (K Hester), 1,288.

Inspired Uphoff takes title

score he had seen in a dressage competition.

When Uphoff, aged 23, who works in her father's transport business, was asked afterwards what ambitions she had left, she replied: "To continue at this level... and to defend my Olympic title in Barcelona."

The individual silver medal went to Kyra Kyrklund, of Finland, on Matador, to rapturous acclaim from the 25,000 crowd in the Olympic stadium.

Monica Theodorescu, who helped West Germany win the team gold medal on Friday, took the bronze on Ganimeas.

Despite the 87 marks which separated Kyrklund from Uphoff, she could not have been more delighted with her silver medal. Matador, the magnificent Danish-bred stallion, had an operation for a twisted gut 14 months ago.

While New Zealand's team victory had been a virtual certainty by the start of the show jumping, Britain had held only a 12-point lead over the West Germans for the silver medal.

Karen Straker, who collected a frustrating 20 penalties at the water on the cross country — Miss Straker's *été noire* — rode a confident round incurring just five penalties at the last part of the treble.

With Edith Beine, of West Germany, incurring 10 penalties and Marina Lohsei five, the gap between the two had widened by the time Rodney Powell and The Irishman came into the ring. Powell,

who had also collected 20 penalties on Saturday's cross country, used up half the advantage with an untypical 10 penalties.

The pressure was then on Stark to produce a clear round both for an individual medal and to secure the team silver. Stark, whose daring and exhilarating cross country round on Murphy Himself has been a talking point of these championships — produced another superb, if hair-raising clear round, to add the world championship individual silver medal to his Olympic individual silver medal and to restore to Britain some much-needed glory.

Mrs Leng, who had seen her chances of retaining the world title collapse with a fall at the bullfinch fence on the cross country, went some way to atoning for this by producing one of only four clear rounds within the time in yesterday's show jumping. Typically she blamed herself for Saturday.

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An Indian bat mightier than the English sword

By ALAN LEE CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LORD'S (third day of first): India, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 277 runs behind England.

AT THE end of the most intoxicating week in this run-drunk season, we are witnessing something from another age, a Test match in which the result seems to matter less than the entertainment.

Three days at Lord's, at the start of this Cornhill series, have brought 1,029 runs at an average of four an over. Five men have made centuries (and one of them has made a triple century). On Saturday, India scored the narrow-mindedness of much modern cricket and replied to 653 for four as if convinced they would score 800 by Tuesday lunchtime and bowl England out in an afternoon.

It was a riposte of such indomitable spirit that it quite took the breath away, never more so than during a sensational innings by the captain, Mohammed Azharuddin. He has had egg on his face ever since he invited England to bat first, but by Saturday evening he was covered in something more glorious, having struck an 88-ball hundred containing some of the most exquisite strokes this great old ground has seen.

He was close to being caught-and-bowled on nought and gave a half-chance to mid-on when 97. Both were back-foot shots of carefree adventure, typical of an innings which taunted the prospect of the follow-on. India still need another 78 today, with four wickets remaining, but Azharuddin has already done much to restore the confidence that his insertion had frittered away.

The bat has been so much mightier than the ball throughout this singular season that one would have

thought it must exhaust its capacity to surprise. Apparently not. In the past seven days, we have had Rose hitting 148 in 69 balls, Hick scoring 600-plus without being out, Gilmartin falling two short in a run-chase for 495, Ramprakash making three consecutive centuries and Moody reaching 100 in 26 minutes. Then, unforgotten, we had Gooch.

His 333, still, inevitably, dominated conversation on Saturday morning as the one-year friends-indeed-in that uniquely Lord's Test way. There was much wide-eyed wonderment, not least in the press box, where Boycott and Brearley, Gooch's opening partners of earlier vintage, animatedly discussed the history-making and its maker.

For a time, it seemed that the third day might belong to Gooch just as much as the first two had done. England made the early breakthrough they needed and then, when Gooch overcame his deep disarray for his own bowling, his third ball dismissed the dangerous Manjrekar.

Lewis, meanwhile, was delivering an outstanding spell from the pavilion end, fast and skilful. Time after time, he moved the ball away to beat the outside edge. India were existing precariously but you would not have known it.

To a man, they counter-attacked and as Gooch rightly retained his ring of close catchers, the ball was being retrieved from the boundary with great regularity.

It was now that Gooch could be criticised for the first time in the match. He had only the four specialist bowlers and yet the one spinner among them, Hemmings, was not employed until the 57th over. Atherton, whose leg-breaks count Gooch

himself among their recent victims, was not given a bow all day and, having failed to catch the captain's eye with such a huge total to exploit, he must know with depressing certainty where he stands. Mickey Stewart, the manager, said before the game that Atherton was regarded as a bowler. Gooch, evidently disagreed.

Hemmings's appearance was an instant hit with Stuart, who took 14 off his first over. But, having completed his ninth Test century in 100 minutes, he was lured to his end, advancing to his stumps over the top but failing to get to the pitch and clipping it to mid-on.

On a bland pitch, this was surely the way to dismantle a team whose batting was as most irresponsible as its brilliance. But Gooch, asked to reverse quickly to the seam bowling with which he feels most comfortable, "As a captain, he has many merits but appreciation of spin is not among them."

In among various breaks in rain and one pedantic but light stoppage, Azharuddin added 50 with Venkateswarlu, with Tendulkar and 60 with Prabhakar. Each of his partners was out when well set and none will be proud of his last shot.

The captain, however, was undeterred. He hit Hemmings for four fours in an over and Lewis, thrillingly, for three. At one point, he had made 64 of 73 in boundaries. His century was the fastest, in an English Test, since Botham's Old Trafford nine years ago, and there are reasons, personal pressure among them, why it might also have been the best.

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Shades of the great Ranji reappear to grace Lord's

By JOHN WOODCOCK

ON Thursday and Friday, in the first Test match against India at Lord's, we saw much that is best in the English way of batting. On Saturday the Indians showed us something less calculating but unquestionably more beautiful. Mohammed Azharuddin's unbeaten hundred, like Gooch's monumental innings, will be unforgettable to those who watched it.

C. B. Fry believed the Indians to be the best natural batsmen in the world. The West Indians had yet to make their mark when he said that, and India and Pakistan still lived under the same roof. Coming from the sub-continent the Indians have lightning quick eyes, wrists of steel and the dash of a Jodhpur Lancer.

England's bowlers had been warned in the one-day internationals what to expect in conditions favourable to India's batsmen. Before that the New Zealanders were full of the way the Indians had made their runs when visiting them earlier this year. They had lost, but with a rare flourish. "Cost magnificent, mais ce n'est pas la guerre," said the

old sticks. Some said the same of Azharuddin on Saturday. Azharuddin's idea of bliss must be to bat against England. As a 21-year-old against David Gower's side in 1984-85 he made a hundred in each of his first three Tests — in Calcutta, Madras and Kanpur. He played then with an innocence and a charm and a touch that one could only marvel at. But, as Fry would understand, India is full of such talent, only a tiny part of which is tapped. At Lord's, on Saturday, I imagine we must have seen from Azharuddin how Duleepsinhji played there when making 173 for England against Australia in 1920 or his uncle, the great Ranji, when he made 154 against them at Old Trafford in 1896.

It is no good expecting Englishmen to bat like it. You might as well ask a greyhound to retrieve a pheasant or a Labrador to win the greyhound derby. One of the beauties of cricket is how it lends itself to such diverse renderings. Saturday's play was an affirmation that in India the art of batsmanship is alive and well.

In England, too, we have some

very good young players. In West Indies, on the other hand, the joy of going out to bat and therefore the vitality of the game in the shadows is being seriously undermined by the killing way in which they are allowed, indeed encouraged to bowl. It is not their matches — but it is not cricket.

What is not going to win any matches is Gooch's ingenuity. He is having a memorable year, but it is based not on what might be possible so much as on discipline, fitness and the philosophy that the less you venture the less you lose. He captains England along the lines that Clive Lloyd and Vivian Richards have both captained West Indies. But without having the same resources. The Lloyd and Richards way is to stand at slip and operate the levers which bring four battering rams into and out of the action.

England can't do it like that even if the choice of so many fast bowlers from the Caribbean suggests that they would if they could. There are going to be times, instead, when they need to use their wits.

Trevino may blacklist US PGA championship

By MITCHELL PLATTS GOLF CORRESPONDENT

LEE Trevino is considering dropping out of the United States PGA Championship next month at the all-white Shoal Creek Golf Club, which is under fire from racial equality groups. Trevino won the title at Shoal Creek in 1984.

The unrest caused by alleged racism at the club in Birmingham, Alabama, has also sparked reports that the Augusta National club, home of the Masters, will invite its first black member. The controversy has escalated since Hall Thompson, owner of Shoal Creek, stated he would

not be pressured into accepting black members. Racial equality groups denounced the club as not being a suitable venue for the US PGA championship.

The United States Congress has entered the dispute, and a number of companies including Toyota, which sponsors Trevino, have withdrawn their advertisements booked for television during the tournaments. As a result ABC, the American television network, could incur losses of more than \$2 million.

Trevino, who was born in Texas of Mexican parents, has been a critic of segregation and for years. He said: "The fact

that Toyota and IBM have announced they've decided to drop their commercials for the telecast has me thinking. Hey, I'm a member of the PGA and I hate to see our organisation shoot itself in the foot like this."

Calvin Peete, one of the few black professional golfers and winner of 12 tournaments on the US PGA Tour, has stated that he feels the remarks made by Thompson were directed at blacks in general. "So that's letting me know they don't want me there," Peete said.

The knowledge that black leaders are also planning to picket the club and the local airports has reverberated

across America, and all-white clubs will be under pressure to change their policies.

Gary Player, two-time PGA championship winner, said: "I will not be competing this year but I must say I was bitterly disappointed with Mr Hall Thompson's statement. I thought they were uncalculated. It hurts a lot of people. I think people are entitled to demonstrate as long as they demonstrate in an orderly fashion. If I was in those people's shoes then I too would demonstrate. In the world today we have to learn to live with each other."

Hord Hardin, chairman of the Augusta National club, which has the most exclusive membership in the world, said: "It is our hope that we will invite our first black members this year. We haven't completed the procedures we normally follow yet but it is certainly our desire that we do it. I have every reason to believe that we will."

Speculation that the championship will be moved has been discounted by PGA of America officials but The Concord Hotel in Kennesaw, New York, has offered its Monster course.

Bruno urged to give up boxing

FRANK Bruno was urged yesterday by Terry Lawless, his manager, not to box again. Bruno has not boxed since losing to Mike Tyson in five rounds in Las Vegas in February last year.

Lawless said on BSB Sports Channel: "I wouldn't like to see him fight again, but I can't understand why he is reluctant to say he is going to quit. With people like Bruno, Martina Navratilova and Nick Faldo it's not just about money. It's about being the greatest ever."

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